

# Should I Embrace Islam

by Thaanvi Center

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## Introduction

When we look at the variety of religions and beliefs around the world and the zeal with which their followers uphold these beliefs, it becomes quite evident that these people are not able to find the truth because adherence is usually not based on an intellectual understanding of the teachings, but on powerful cultural and emotional influences. Because they were brought up in a particular family or society, they firmly cling to the beliefs of that society, believing that they are upholding the truth.

Islam is universal religion and can be practiced till end of the world. Whatever situation human nation would face but still God decided Islam is only solution.

Situation means trials, disasters, destructions, utilization of advanced technologies, portraying Islam as a threat and 'extremist Fundamentalism', western media's efforts, hostile attitude towards Islam or whatever you say but only solution is Practicing on Islam only. This was decided by Creator as He is the one make all the things to happen as His wishes and declared all the creations as His slaves. As a slave we have to accept God's decision and follow what He revealed to do to be success. Many prominent social and political leaders of the western world have begun

to admit the importance of Islam for humanity and that there is a need to study it impartially and objectively in order to have a greater understanding of Islam and the Muslim world. At this point, it would be logical to say that a proper understanding of Islam can come only through original Islamic sources. We are trying to explain the universal nature of the message which the Holy Prophet's biography extends to all mankind, particularly its relevance to the complexities of the ever-advancing modern life. Islam literally means peace, guarantees a life of peace and prosperity in this temporary world and a life of everlasting peace and joy in the next world. It is a message from Allah, the Creator of man, to man for his eternal success.

When you go through this book, there has come a certain inevitable comparison between the life and personality of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) and of other Prophets of Allah, which is permissible. However, it must be borne in mind that on such occasions the comparison has been made by way of argument and is in reply to what the non-Muslims believe about certain Prophets and what has been written about their personalities in their own religious books. As far as the Islamic point of view is concerned every Prophet of Allah had the purest of

character, was infallible in his conveyance of the Divine message and was an ideal personality for the guidance of mankind. In spite of the differences in recording their life histories due to different times and different abilities of the biographers, their real personalities remain above and beyond all criticism and fault finding.

Our Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said 'Jesus was given miracles and for me given Qur'an.' We think had given miracles to our Prophet then it would be good reason that people might accept Islam easily without much effort as it is visible and last it is a miracle. But Allah decided that passing of century by century He will give more intellectual powers to human and miracle is not a universally accepted to different levels of all humans. Man has been given power of mind and knowledge. This is what we see that this weak man becomes powerful of creature on the earth. Wherever there is a weakness of sense and perception, God provides for the defense and protection of life. Different animals have been given different means of defense such as sharp claws, pointed teeth, the ability to fly, and the ability to run fast. Some have been given a poisonous sting; others have been given poisonous fangs. In short, they have been armed with various devices of self-defense.

However, man does not possess any of these weapons. He does not have the pointed teeth and strong paws of a lion; nor the long trunk and strong tusks of an elephant; nor the sharp horns of a bull; nor the poison a snake; nor the sting of a hornet or a scorpion. Outwardly, he seems utterly defenseless and vulnerable. Yet, he is able to overpower the long tusked elephants, the fiercely strong-pawed lions and fearfully poisonous snakes. He can catch the free flying birds into his snares and trap the creatures of deep waters. He can produce all kinds of defensive and offensive weapons. Man can achieve all this because he has been given tremendous powers of mind, sensory perception, reason and a free will. These are the powers that compensate his outer weaknesses and these are the powers that distinguish him from other creatures. So Qur'an is talking to this kind of man to understand oneness of God.

The freedom of choice between good and evil has made him accountable for his actions. Other creatures do not have the freedom of action; therefore, they have no responsibility.

In this context, being unjust means transgressing the limits. This reflects the imbalance in the use of man's physical powers, whereas being foolish or ignorant

means crossing the limits of his mental powers. The counterpart of “unjust” is “just” and the opposite of “ignorant” is “knowledgeable”. These are the qualities he does not, in fact, possess. In order to achieve them he needs to strike a balance in his physical and mental faculties. He needs justice or moderation in the application of his physical power and he needs to replace his ignorance by knowledge and insight. In the Qur’anic terms the first faculty is known as the “righteous deeds”, whereas “knowledge” means Faith in Allah (the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe). Consider the following verses of the Glorious Qur’an: “(I swear) by the Time, Man is in a state of loss indeed, Except those who believed and did righteous deeds, and exhorted each other to follow truth, and exhorted each other to observe patience.” [Chapter The Declining Day 103]

The loss mentioned in these verses represents the transgression and ignorance of man, the imbalance in his physical and mental powers. And its remedy lies in Faith (which means true knowledge) and in moderation (which means righteous deeds). In other words man remains in perpetual loss unless he attains a balance in the use of his physical and mental powers by gaining Faith and Righteous

Deeds. As a witness to this fact Allah has brought in the evidence of Time through Ages. This means the events of man's own history since the inception of this world.

## Concept of God in Different Religions

A common feature of all major religions is the belief in a universal God or supreme divine authority that is Omnipotent and Omniscient. Followers of all major religions believe that the God they worship is the same God for them as well as for others. The concept of God espoused by a religion cannot be judged by merely observing the practice of its followers. It is quite common for the followers of many religions to be ignorant of the concept of God in their scriptures. It is therefore better to analyze the concept of God in any religion by referring to its holy scriptures. Most of religions in the world's root is Islam. God has selected certain humans as Prophets and revealed divine message. As centuries pass, their followers slowly changed their religion to new laws and became a new religion. And their Prophet became their God.

Addressing both the Jews and the Christians, Allah says:

“O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of Allah (God) aught but the truth. Christ Jesus son of Mary was (no more than) a messenger of Allah (God), and His Word, which he bestowed on Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah (God) and His messengers...”  
[Chapter The Woman 4:171]

### Hinduism

Hinduism is commonly perceived as a polytheistic religion. Some Hindus believe in the system of three Gods while some Hindus actually believe in the existence of 330 million Gods. However learned Hindus who are well versed with their scriptures insists that a Hindu should believe in and worship only one God.

The most popular among all the Hindu scriptures is the Bhagwad Geeta. Consider the following verse from the Geeta:

“Those whose intelligence has been stolen by materialistic desires surrender unto demigods and follow the particular rules and regulations of worship according to their own nature.” [Bhagwad Geeta 7:20]

The Geeta is referring to people who are materialistic and therefore worship demigods i.e. besides the True God.

The Upanishads are also considered sacred scriptures by the Hindus. Consider the following verses from the Upanishads:

"He is One only without a second" [Chandogya Upanishad 6:2:1]

"Of Him there are neither parents nor Lord"  
[Svetasvatara Upanishad 6,9]

"There is no likeness of Him" [Svetasvatara Upanishad 4:19]

"There is no likeness of Him whose name is great glory" [The principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 736,737]

Compare the above verses with the following verses of the Glorious Qur'an:

"And there is none like unto Him" [Chapter Absoluteness 112:4]

"There is nothing whatever like unto Him" [Chapter Consultation 42:11]

The following verses from the Upanishad allude to the inability of Man to imagine God in a particular form:

"His form is not to be seen; no one sees Him with the eye. Those who through heart and mind know Him as abiding in the heart become immortal" [Svetasvatara Upanishad 4:20]

The Glorious Qur'an refers to this aspect in the following verse:

"No vision can grasp Him but His grasp is over all vision; He is above all comprehension, yet is acquainted with all things" [Chapter The Cattle 6:103]

Vedas are considered the most sacred amongst all the Hindu scriptures. Consider following verses:

"There is no image of Him" [Yajurved 32:3]

"He is bodyless and pure" [Yajurved 40:8]

"They enter darkness, those who worship natural things (eg air, water, fire etc). They sink deeper in darkness those who worship sambhuti (sambhuti means created things eg idol, table, chair etc)" [Yajurved 40:9]

"Lead us to the good path and remove the sin that makes us stray and wander" [Yajurved 40:16]

"God is verily great" [Atharvaveda 20 58:3]

A similar message is given in Qur'an:

"He is the great, the most high" [Chapter The Thunder 13:9]

The oldest of all the vedas is Rig veda. It is also the one considered most sacred by the Hindus. The Rig Ved: "Sages (learned priests) call one God by many names" [Rigveda 1:164:46]

"O friends, do not worship anybody but Him, the divine One" [Rigveda Book 8:1:1]

Thus only a dispassionate study of the Hindu scriptures can help one understand the concept of God in Hinduism.

#### Hinduism was influenced by other religions

Though Hindu Scriptures permit its followers to have non-vegetarian food, many Hindus adopted the vegetarian system because they were influenced by other religions like Jainism.

Hindu scriptures give permission to have non-vegetarian food.

- a. There are many Hindus who are strictly vegetarian. They think it is against their religion to consume non-vegetarian food. But the true fact is that the Hindu scriptures permit a person to have meat. The scriptures mention Hindu sages and saints consuming non-vegetarian food.
- b. It is mentioned in Manu Smruti, the law book of Hindus, in chapter 5 verse 30

“The eater who eats the flesh of those to be eaten does nothing bad, even if he does it day after day, for God himself created some to be eaten and some to be eaten.”

c. Again next verse of Manu Smruti, that is, chapter 5 verse 31 says

“Eating meat is right for the sacrifice, this is traditionally known as a rule of the gods.”

d. Further in Manu Smruti chapter 5 verse 39 and 40 says “God himself created sacrificial animals for sacrifice, ... , therefore killing in a sacrifice is not killing.”

### Buddhism

Gautama Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. His original name was Siddharth (meaning one who has accomplished) and was also called Sakyamuni, i.e. the sage of the tribe of Sakya. He was born in the year 563 B.C. in the village of Lumbini near Kapila Vastu, within the present borders of Nepal.

According to some historians, an astrologer foretold his father, the king, that young Gautama would give up the throne and luxury and renounce the world the day he would see four things:

- (i) an old man,
- (ii) a sick man,

(iii) a diseased man

(iv) a dead man.

Hence, the king confined Gautama in a special palace which was provided with all worldly pleasures. He was married at the age of sixteen to Yasoddhara.

At the age of 29 after the birth of his first son, Gautama on the same day saw an old man, a sick man, a diseased man and a dead man. The impact of the dark side of life made him renounce the world that same night and he left his wife and son and became a penniless wanderer.

He studied and practiced Hindu discipline initially, and later, Jainism. Hinduism is believed to be existing as long as 2000 B.C. and was prevalent in this part of the world. For several years he observed rigorous fasting along with extreme self-mortification. On realizing that tormenting his body did not bring him closer to true wisdom, he resumed eating normally and abandoned asceticism.

At the age of 35, one evening as he sat beneath a giant bodhi tree, he felt that he had found the solution to his problem and felt that he had attained enlightenment. Thus, he came to be known as 'Gautama', 'The Buddha', or 'The Enlightened One'.

Later, he spent 45 years in preaching the truth that he felt he had discovered. He travelled from city to city bare-footed, clean-headed, with nothing more on his self than his saffron robe, walking stick and begging bowl. He died at the age of 80 in the year 483 BC.

Historical criticism has proved that the original teachings of Buddha can never be known. It seems that Gautama Buddha's teachings were memorized by his disciples. After Buddha's death a council was held at Rajagaha so that the words of Buddha could be recited and agreed upon. There were differences of opinion and conflicting memories in the council.

Opinion of Kayshapa and Ananda who were prominent disciples of Buddha were given preference. A hundred years later, a second council at Vesali was held. Only after 400 years, after the death of Buddha were his teachings and doctrines written down. Little attention was paid regarding its authenticity, genuineness and purity.

### Concept of God

Buddha was silent about the existence or non-existence of God. It may be that since India was drowned in idol worship and anthropomorphism that a sudden step to monotheism would have been drastic and hence Buddha may have chosen to remain

silent on the issue of God. He did not deny the existence of God. Buddha was once asked by a disciple whether God exists? He refused to reply. When pressed, he said that if you are suffering from a stomach ache would you concentrate on relieving the pain or studying the prescription of the physician. "It is not my business or yours to find out whether there is God - our business is to remove the sufferings of the world".

### Sikhism

Sikhism is a branch or offshoot of Hindu is founded by Guru Nanak at the end of the 15th century. Sikhism is a religion of 10 Gurus, the first Guru being Guru Nanak and the 10th and last being Guru Gobind Singh. The sacred book of Sikhism is Sri Guru Granth also called Adi Granth Sahib.

Sikhism enjoins on its followers strict monothiesm. It believes in only One Supreme God who is, in the unmanifest form called 'ek omkara.' Sikhism is also strongly against idol worship.

### Judaism

There are many Bibles under Torah but mainly Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

They believe in the prophetic mission of Prophet Moses (Peace be upon him). Judaism believes in one God but you have to be born from a Jew to be a Jew. Or else there is a long procedure when one wants to convert to Judaism. He has to face interviews and many years of study to become a Jew.

The following verses contain exhortation from Moses (Peace be upon him).

"Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord"

[Deuteronomy 6:4]

"I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour." [Isaiah 43:11]

"I am lord, and there is none else. There is no God besides me." [Isaiah 45:5]

### Christianity

There are many Bibles under Gospels but mainly Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As per some views that two of them never saw the Messiah (Mark and Luke), and the other two (Matthew and John) saw him and met with him. At the beginning of this century the Gospel of Barnabas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus was discovered. It was found that a version of this gospel had been in the Pope's library since 383 A.D., being listed among the banned books. Another

version of it was transferred to the public library in Vienna, where it was kept until today.

The Trinity has long been considered the main declaration of the Christian concept of God. The Christian doctrine of the Trinity teaches the unity of the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as three distinct persons in one 'godhead'. The doctrine of the Trinity was coined by the Christians about 300 years after Jesus. The four Canonical Gospels, written between 70 and 115 A.C., contain no reference to the Trinity. It has become a part of the Christian faith towards the end of the fourth century. Christianity owes its name to Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him). Jesus (Peace be upon him) is also a revered figure in Islam.

Before we discuss the concept of God in Christianity let us examine the position of Jesus (Peace be upon him) in Islam:

1. Islam is the only non-Christian faith, which makes it an article of faith to believe all Prophets. That means including Jesus (Peace be upon him).
2. We believe that he was one of the mightiest Messengers of Allah.

3. We believe that he was born miraculously without any male intervention, which many modern day Christians do not believe.
4. We believe that he gave life to the dead with Allah's permission.
5. We believe that he healed those born blind, and thee lepers with Allah's permission.

One may ask, if both Muslims and Christians love and respect Jesus (Peace be upon him), where exactly is the parting of ways? The major difference between Islam and Christianity is the Christian's insistence on the supposed divinity of Christ. A study of the Christian scriptures reveals that Jesus (Peace be upon him) never claimed divinity.

In fact there is not a single unequivocal statement in the entire Bible where Jesus (Peace be upon him) himself says, "I am God" or where he says, "worship me". In fact the Bible contains statements attributed to Jesus (Peace be upon him) in which he preached quite the contrary. Consider the following statements in the Bible, attributed to Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him):

"My Father is greater than I" [John 14:28]

"My Father is greater than all" [John 10:29]

"... I cast out devils by the spirit of God..." [Mathew 12:28]

"... with the finger of God cast out devils..." [Luke 11:20]

"And he said unto him: Why do you call me good? There is none good but one, that is God" [Matthew 19:17]

"And the father himself which Has sent me, has borne witness of me. You have NEITHER HEARD HIS VOICE AT ANY TIME NOR SEEN HIS SHAPE." [John 5:37]

Jesus (Peace be upon him) never claimed divinity for himself. He clearly announced the nature of his mission. Jesus (Peace be upon him) was sent by God to confirm the previous Judaic law. This is clearly evident in the following statements attributed to Jesus (Peace be upon him) in the Gospel of Mathew:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the Prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be

called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." [Mathew 5:17-20]

The Bible mentions the Prophetic nature of Jesus mission in the following verses:

"... and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which has sent me." [John 14:24]

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent." [John 17:3]

The Bible does not support the Christian belief in trinity at all. One of the scribes once asked Jesus (Peace be upon him) as to which was the first commandment of all, to which Jesus (Peace be upon him) merely repeated what Moses (Peace be upon him) had said, namely:

"Hear, O Isreal: The Lord our God is one Lord." [Mark 12:29]

In Bibles there are many verses on humanship of Jesus.

Powerless: God cannot be powerless or weak. Jesus said: "I can of mine own self do nothing." [John 5:30]

“Eloi, Eloi, Lama sabachthani? Which is being interpreted my God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?” [Mark 15:34]

Can anyone imagine these words coming out of the mouth of God? Here we have a cry of helpless man in agony addressed to his Creator and Lord.

Object of worship: God is the object of our worship, the Supreme Being to Whom we, creatures, address our prayers. We cannot imagine God praying to anyone. Yet about Jesus it is written in the Gospels: “And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.” [Luke 5:16]

Ignorant of the Time: Jesus said: “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.” [Mark, 13:32]

The Devil Tempted Jesus for 40 days: “And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan.” [Mark, 1:12-13]

Jesus came for the Jews only: “But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” [Matthew, 15:24]

Hungry: “After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.” [Matthew 4:2]

“Early in the morning as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry.” [Matthew 21:18]

Humiliated: “And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him. And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face.” [Luke, 22:63-64].

“Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands.”

[Matthew, 26:67]

Cried: “Jesus wept.” [John 11:35]

“While Jesus was speaking the disciples wept bitterly. And Jesus wept many tears.” [Barnabas 58]

Knowledge of Final Hour: “Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away, but of that day or hour no man knoweth, neither the angels in the heaven nr the Son but the father.” [Mark 13: 31-32]

One of the attributes of God is omniscience, knowledge of all things. Therefore, his denial of knowledge of the Day of Judgment is also a denial of divinity, for one who does not know the time of the final hour cannot possibly be God.

Miracle is not a yardstick: Miracles are no standards of judging truth and falsehood. Christian insists that Jesus is God because he gave life back to the dead. Will reviving the dead make others God too? Moses is greater than Jesus because he put life back into a dead stick and transmuted it from the plant kingdom to the animal kingdom by making it into a serpent. [Exodus 7:10]

Elisha is greater than Jesus because the bones of Elisha brought a man back to life merely by coming into contact with the corpse [2 Kings 13:21]  
Elisha cured Naaman the leper. [2 Kings 5: 14]

Messenger of God: Doesn't the Bible clearly prove Jesus is the messenger of God and not God?  
“So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me” (John 7:16)  
“Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to accomplish His work” (John 4:34)  
“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak” (John 12:49)

Atonement: Christian doctrine of the Atonement is that God's justice requires that a price must be paid for the original and other sins of man. If God were to

pardon a sinner without punishing him would be denial of His Justice. This view shows complete ignorance God. God is not a mere judge or king. He is, as the Qur'an describes Him, "Master of the Day of Judgment". He is not only Just but also Merciful and Forgiving. If He finds some real good in a man or sees that he is sincerely repentant, having a real urge to conquer the evil within him, then He may forgive his failings and sins altogether. To punish a person for his past sins, even after he has repented and reformed himself, is a sign of vengeance and not of justice.

Monasticism: "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." [Luke 14:33]

When a man told him that he would follow him but he should be allowed to go and bury his dead father, Jesus is reported to have said, "Follow me; and let the dead bury the dead." [Matthew 8:22]

Was Jesus sent to be crucified: One of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity is that Jesus had died and allowed for the shedding of his blood for the sake of granting forgiveness to people. In other words Jesus had died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Let us investigate this topic from the Bible, and find out whether Jesus: was sent to be crucified or that he

was crucified Willingness of Jesus Christ to Die for Our Sins. Peter and the two sons of Zebedee were with Jesus Christ before the elders of the people and the chief priests came to take him to crucify him. Jesus at this point talked to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee as in Matthew 26:38 "Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me." Then Jesus went a little further away from them and prayed to God as in Matthew 26:39"

It is very clear from the above verse in Matthew 26:39 that Jesus had no intention of dying. In this verse it is shown that Jesus was praying strongly (Matthew mentions that Jesus repeated these prayer three time) to have this death removed from him. Had Jesus Christ been sent to be crucified he would not have hesitated to be killed at all.

Son of God: God called Israel (Prophet Jacob) His 'son' when He instructed Prophet Moses to go to Pharaoh, "And you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, 'Israel is my first-born son, and I say to you, 'Let my son go that he may serve me.'" [Exodus 4:22-23]

God calls Prophet Solomon His son, "He (Solomon) shall build a house for my name, and I will establish

the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father and he shall be my son." [Psalms 89:26-27]

Since the Hebrews believed that God is One, and had neither wife nor children in any literal sense, it is obvious that the expression 'son of God' merely meant to them 'servant of God'; one who, because of his faithful service, was close and dear to God as a son is to a father. Christians who came from Greek or Roman background later misused this term.

Most famous among the Church of England bishops, who doubt Jesus' divinity, is the outspoken Reverend Professor David Jenkins, the Bishop of Durham in England, who openly states that Jesus was not God. (The Economist 1989-Apr-1 Vol 311 no. 7556 page 19)

Jesus is God's servant. All of mankind are the servants of God.

"Behold my servant, whom I have chosen." [Matthew 12:18]

"The God of Abraham, and of Isaac,.... hath glorified his servant Jesus." [Acts 3:13(RSV)]

The Actual Greek word used is "pias" or "paida" which mean; "servant, child, son, manservant." Some translations of the Bible, such as the popular King James Version, have translated this word as "Son"

when it is attributed to Jesus and "servant" for most everyone else, while more recent translations of the Bible such as the Revised Standard Version (RSV) now honestly translate it as "servant." As we shall see in later chapters, the RSV was compiled by 32 Biblical scholars of the highest eminence, backed by 50 cooperating Christian denominations from the "most" ancient Biblical manuscripts available to them today. The exact same word "pias" is attributed to Jacob (Israel) in Luke 1:54 and translated as "servant": "He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;" However, when it is applied to Jesus (e.g. Acts 3:13, Acts 4:27), now it is translated as "Son." (notice that it is not only translated as "son" but as "Son".) Why the double standard? Why the dishonest translation techniques?" And verily, among them is a party who twist their tongues with the Scripture that you might think that it is from the Scripture but it is not from the Scripture.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) mentioned by name in the Old Testament: Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is mentioned by name in the Song of Solomon 5:16: "Hikko Mamittakim we kullo Muhammadim Zehdoodeh wa Zehraee Bayna Jerusalem." "His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is

altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem." In the Hebrew language im is added for respect. Similarly 'im' is added after the name of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) to make it Muhammadim. In English translation they have even translated the name of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) as "altogether lovely", but in the Old Testament in Hebrew, the name of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is yet present. It's majestic plural noun like Elohim which refers to one God only. So Muhammadim also refers to one Muhammad even though im can refer also to be plural.

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." [John 15:26]

"Ahmed" or "Muhammad" meaning "the one who praises" or "the praised one" is almost the translation of the Greek word Periclytos. In the Gospel of John 14:16, 15:26, and 16:7. The word 'Comforter' is used in the English translation for the Greek word Paracletos which means advocate or a kind friend rather than a comforter. Paracletos is the warped reading for Periclytos. Jesus (Peace be upon him)

actually prophesized Ahmed by name. Even the Greek word Paraclete refers to the Prophet (Peace be upon him) who is a mercy for all creatures. Some Christians say that the Comforter mentioned in these prophecies refers to the Holy Spirit. They fail to realize that the prophecy clearly says that only if Jesus (Peace be upon him) departs will the Comforter come. The Bible states that the Holy Spirit was already present on earth before and during the time of Jesus (Peace be upon him), in the womb of Elizabeth, and again when Jesus (Peace be upon him) was being baptised, etc. Hence this prophecy refers to none other than Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

"The disciples answered: 'O Master, who shall that man be of whom thou speakest, who shall come into the world?' Jesus answered with joy of heart: 'He is Muhammad, messenger of God and when he cometh into the world, even as the rain maketh the earth to bear fruit when for a long time it hath not rained, even so shall he be occasion of good works among men, through the abundant mercy which he shall bring.' [Barnabas 163]

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you unto all truth: for he shall

not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me". [John 16:12-14 (King James Version)]

The Spirit of Truth, spoken about in this prophecy refers to none other than Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and I will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." [Deuteronomy 18:18]

Here question is to whom does this prophecy refer? Most important words of this prophecy are 'SOOS JY IS' (like unto thee), - LIKE YOU - like Moses, and Jesus is like Moses. The way Jesus like Moses are Moses was a Jew and Jesus was also a Jew; secondly, Moses was a Prophet and Jesus was also a Prophet. If these are the only two criteria for discovering a candidate for this prophecy of Deuteronomy 18:18, then in that case the criteria could fit any one of the following Biblical personages after Moses:- Solomon, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Malachi, John the Baptist etc., because they were also all 'Jews' as well as 'Prophets'. Why should we not apply this prophecy to any one of these prophets? Actually Jesus is most unlike Moses. Reasons are

- 1) In the first place Jesus is not like Moses, because, according to Christians - 'Jesus is a God', but Moses is not God.
- 2) Jesus died for the sins of the world, but Moses did not have to die for the sins of the world.
- 3) Moses had a father and a mother. Muhammed also had a father and a mother. But Jesus had only a mother, and no human father.
- 4) Moses and Muhammed were born in the normal, natural course, i.e. the physical association of man and woman; but Jesus was created by a special miracle.
- 5) Moses and Muhammed married and begat children, but Jesus remained a bachelor all his life.
- 6) Ultimately Moses and Muhammed were accepted as Prophets by their people in their very lifetime but not Jesus. According to the Bible: 'He (Jesus) came unto his own, but his own received him not.' [John 1:11]. And even today, after two thousand years, his people- the Jews, as a whole, have rejected him. Therefore Jesus is not like Moses, but Muhammed is like Moses. And God says to Moses in the Book of Deuteronomy 18:18 "Like unto thee" (Like You, Like Moses) and Muhammed is like Moses.
- 7) Ishmael and Isaac are the sons of the same father Abraham, then they are brothers. And so the children of the one are the brethren of the children of the

other. The children of Isaac are the Jews and the Children of Ishmael are the Arabs - so they are brethren to one another. The Bible affirms, 'and he (Ishmael) shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.' [Genesis 16:12]. 'and he (Ishmael) died in the presence of all his brethren.' [Genesis 25:18]. The children of Isaac are the brethren of the Ishmaelites. In like manner Muhammed is from among the brethren of the Israelites because he was a descendant of Ishmael the son of Abraham. This exactly as the prophecy has it- 'from among their brethren'. [Deuteronomy 18:18]. There the prophecy distinctly mentions that the coming prophet who would be like Moses, must arise not from the 'children of Israel' or from 'among themselves', but from among their brethren. Muhammad therefore was from among their brethren!

### Islam

Islam means submission to the will of God through unquestioning obedience to His Law in the Glorious Qur'an and the teaching of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). Judaism is named after the tribe of Judah and Christianity after Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him). Thus even the names of these faiths illustrate their restrictive character. The name of Islam proves its universality. Muslims accept

the Qur'an, as the word of God revealed to Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). Islam states that Allah sent Messengers and Prophets throughout the ages with the message of the Unity of God, and accountability in the hereafter. Islam thus makes it an article of faith to believe in the earlier Prophets, starting from Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, John, Jesus and many others (May peace be on them all).

The most concise definition of God in Islam is given in four verses of Chapter 112 of the Glorious Qur'an:

"Say: He is Allah, The one and only."

"Allah, the Eternal, Absolute."

"He begets not, nor is He begotten."

"And there is none like unto Him"

Islam teaches us that one must attain spiritual progress through active participation in normal everyday life and for this reason condemns the practice of monasticism, asceticism or celibacy. The doctrines of Islam are characterized by their simplicity, explicitness and highly realistic attitude towards human problems, indulging neither in excessive optimism nor pessimism, and enjoining moderation in all things. Islam is free from incomprehensible theology or burdensome rituals. Religious creeds

shrouded in philosophical complexities may give intellectual pleasure to the few but can never inspire ordinary men and women to be steadfast in virtue.

**God does not becomes a human being:**

Some people argue that God can do everything, then why cannot He take human form? If God wishes He can become a human being. But then He no longer remains God because the qualities of God and human being in many respects are completely incompatible. God is immortal and human beings are mortal. You cannot have a God-man i.e. an immortal being, and at the same time and in the same entity. It is meaningless. God does not have a beginning while human beings have a beginning. You cannot have a person, not having a beginning and at the same time having a beginning. Human being have an end. You cannot have a being, which has no end and an end at the same time. It is meaningless.

God almighty does not require to eat whereas human beings require nourishment to sustain life. Following are few Qur'anic verses:

"And He it is that feeds but is not fed." [Chapter The Cattle 6:14]

God does not require rest or sleep while human beings cannot go indefinitely without rest.

"But He - the Living, The Self-subsisting, Eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth." [Chapter The Cow 2:255]

### **Worship of another human is useless:**

If the idea of God becoming a human is unacceptable, we must also agree that there is therefore no sense in worshipping another human. If God becomes a human form, He ceases to be God and possess all the qualities of a human.

Moreover if God takes human form, the same human cannot later become God, since human beings, by definition do not possess the power to become God. The worship of God in a human form is therefore a logical fallacy and should be abhorred in all its forms.

That is the reason why the Glorious Qur'an speaks against all forms of anthropomorphism.

"There is nothing whatever like create him" [Chapter The Consultation 42:11]

### **God does not perform ungodly acts:**

The attributes of Almighty God preclude any evil since God is the fountainhead of justice, mercy, truth and mighty. God can never be thought of as doing an

ungodly act. Hence we cannot imagine God telling a lie, being unjust, making a mistake, forgetting things, being killed, being harmed, getting sick, and such other human failings. The Glorious Qur'an says:

"Allah is never unjust in the least degree" [Chapter The Woman 4:40]

"... my Lord never errs, nor forgets." [Chapter Thaha 20:52]

"For verily Allah has power over all the things."  
[Chapter The Cow 2:106]

Many religions at some point believe directly or indirectly in the philosophy of anthropomorphism. i.e. God becoming a human form. Their contention is that Almighty God is so pure and holy that He is unaware of the hardships, shortcomings and feelings of human beings. In order to set the rules for human beings He came down to earth in the form of a human. This deceptive logic has fooled countless millions through the ages. Let us now analyze this argument and see if it stands to reason.

### **The Creator prepares the instruction manual:**

Allah has endowed us humans with reason and intelligence. We invent and manufacture appliances for specific purposes. Tape recorders for instance are manufactured in large numbers. It has never been

suggested that in order to understand what is good for the tape recorder the manufacturer should become a tape recorder himself. One simply assumes that the manufacturer will publish an instruction manual, since he has complete knowledge of his product. In short the instruction manual gives the dos and don'ts for the machine.

If you think of the human being as a machine, it is indeed a complex creation of Allah. Our Lord Allah need not come in the form of a human to know what is good or bad for the human being. He only has to reveal the instruction manual to mankind. The Glorious Qur'an is the instruction manual for human beings.

### **Unity of God:**

Some polytheists argue by saying that the existence of more than one God is not illogical. Let us point out to them that if there were more than one God, they would dispute with one another, each God trying to fulfill his will against the will of the other Gods. This can be seen in the mythology of the polytheistic and pantheistic religions. If a 'God' is defeated or unable to defeat the others, he is surely not the one true God. Also popular among polytheistic religions is the idea of many Gods, each having different responsibilities.

Each one would be responsible for a part of man's existence eg a Sun god, a Rain god etc, This indicates that one 'God' is incompetent of certain acts and moreover he is also ignorant and incapable God. If there were more than one God it would surely lead to confusion, disorder, chaos and destruction in the universe. But the universe is in complete harmony.

The Glorious Qur'an says:

"If there were, in the heavens and the earth, other gods besides Allah, there would have been confusion in both! But glory to Allah, The Lord of the Throne: (High is He) above what they attribute to Him!"

[Chapter The Prophets 21:22]

Thus the existence of one True, Supreme Almighty God, is the only logical concept of God.

There are a few religions like Buddhism and Confucianism, which are agnostic religions. They do not comment on God. They neither confirm nor deny the existence of God. There are other religions like Jainism, which are atheistic religions and which do not believe in the existence of God.

**People change scriptures for their benefit:**

By the passage of time most of the religious scriptures have been distorted and changed by people for their

own benefits. The creed of many religions has thus been distorted from monotheism to pantheism or polytheism. The Glorious Qur'an says:

"Then woe to those who write the Book with their own hands, And then say: "This is from Allah," To traffic with it for a miserable price! Woe to them for what their hands do write, and for the gain They make thereby." [Chapter The Cow 2:79]

## Path to Learn Islam

Today it is a common that if some information you want know first go to internet. Or even if you want to go certain place you browse in net and get shortest way to reach it. Same way people are trying to study Islam from internet or media. Yes there are many true Islamic web sites but at the same time there are many untrue web sites in the name of Islam. Islam is without doubt the best religion but the media is in the hands of the westerners who are afraid of Islam. The media is continuously broadcasting and printing information against Islam. They either provide misinformation about Islam, misquote Islam or project a point out of proportion, if any.

When any bomb blasts or killings take place anywhere, the first people to be accused without proof are invariably the Muslims. This appears as headlines in the news. Later, when they find that non-Muslims were responsible, it appears as an insignificant news item. If a 50 year old Muslim marries a 15 year old girl after taking her permission, it appears on the front page but when a 50 year old non-Muslim rapes a 6 year old girl, it may appear in the news in the inside pages as 'News briefs'. Every day in America on an average 393 (2019) reported cases of rape take place but it doesn't appear in the news, since it has become a way of life for the Americans.

If you want to judge how good is the latest model of the "Mercedes" car and a person who does not know how to drive sits at the steering wheel and bangs up the car, who will you blame? The car or the driver? But naturally, the driver. To analyze how good the car is, a person should not look at the driver but see the ability and features of the car. How fast is it, what is its average fuel consumption, what are the safety measures, etc. Even if we agree for the sake of argument that the Muslims are bad, we can't judge Islam by its followers? If you want to judge how good Islam is then judge it according to its authentic sources, i.e. the Glorious Qur'an and the authentic

teachings. And please visit local mosque and meet their imams.

## Questions to Muslims

Today major challenge to Islam is media which is portraying Islamic religion in a wrong picture. They are constantly being bombarded with misinformation about Islam. International media is mainly controlled by the western world, whether it is international satellite channels, radio stations, newspapers, magazines or books. Recently the Internet has become a powerful medium of information. Though it is not controlled by anybody, one finds a large amount of virulent propaganda about Islam on the Internet. Of course, Muslims too are utilizing this tool to portray the right image of Islam and Muslims, but they are far behind as compared to the propaganda against Islam. There are few concerns mainly asking from Muslims.

### 1. Polygamy

Polygamy means a system of marriage whereby one person has more than one spouse. The Glorious Qur'an is the only religious book, on the face of this earth, that contains the phrase 'marry only one'.

There is no other religious book that instructs men to have only one wife. In none of the other religious scriptures, whether it be the Vedas, the Ramayan, the Mahabharat, the Geeta, the Talmud or the Bible does one find a restriction on the number of wives.

According to these scriptures one can marry as many as one wishes. It was only later, that the Hindu priests and the Christian Church restricted the number of wives to one. Many Hindu religious personalities, according to their scriptures, had multiple wives. King Dashrat, the father of Rama, had more than one wife. Krishna had several wives. There was no restriction even on Hindu men with respect to the number of wives allowed. It was only in 1954, when the Hindu Marriage Act was passed that it became illegal for a Hindu to have more than one wife. At present it is the Indian Law that restricts a Hindu man from having more than one wife and not the Hindu scriptures. In earlier times, Christian men were permitted as many wives as they wished, since the Bible puts no restriction on the number of wives. It was only a few centuries ago that the Church restricted the number of wives to one. Polygyny is permitted in Judaism. Prophet Abraham had two wives, according to Genesis 16:13,

"So after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian,

her maid, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife."

So Prophet David, according to the first book of Samuel 27:3,

"And David dwelt with Achish at Gat, he and his men, every man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahin'o-am of Jezreel, and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow."

The practice of polygyny continued till Rabbi Gershom ben Yehudah (960 C.E to 1030 C.E) issued an edict against it. The Jewish Sephardic communities living in Muslim countries continued the practice till as late as 1950, until an Act of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel extended the ban on marrying more than one wife. As mentioned earlier, Glorious Qur'an is the only religious book on the face of the earth that says 'marry only one'. The context of this phrase is the following verse from Glorious Qur'an:

"Marry women of your choice, two, or three, or four; but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then only one." [Chapter The Women 4:3]

Before the Glorious Qur'an was revealed, there was no upper limit for polygyny and many men had scores of wives, some even hundreds. Islam put an upper

limit of four wives. Islam gives a man permission to marry two, three or four women, only on the condition that he deals justly with them.

In the same chapter says:

“Ye are never able to be fair and just as between women....” [Chapter The Women 4:129]

Therefore polygyny is not a rule but an exception.

Logical Analysis: By nature males and females are born in approximately the same ratio. A female child has more immunity than a male child. A female child can fight the germs and diseases better than the male child. For this reason, during the pediatric age itself there are more deaths among males as compared to the females.

During wars, there are more men killed as compared to women. More men die due to accidents and diseases than women. The average life span of females is more than that of males, and at any given time one finds more widows in the world than widowers.

In the USA, women outnumber men by 4.97 million (2020). New York alone has 0.58 million more females

as compared to the number of males (2021), and of the male population of New York nearly one-third are gays i.e sodomites. The U.S.A as a whole has more than 16 million gays (2020). This means that these people do not wish to marry women. UK has 0.8 million more females as compared to males (2019). Germany has 1.6 million more females as compared to males (2022). Russia has 10 million more females than males (2020). God alone knows how many million more females there are in the whole world as compared to males.

Even if every man got married to one woman, there would still be more than 20 million females in U.S.A who would not be able to get husbands (considering that America has 16 million gays). There would be more than 0.8 million females in UK, 1.6 million females in Germany and 10 million females in Russia alone who would not be able to find a husband.

Suppose your sister happens to be one of the unmarried women in USA. The only two options remaining for her are that she either marries a man who already has a wife or being unmarried.

Most women would not like to share their husband with other women. But in Islam when the situation deems it really necessary Muslim women in due faith

could bear a small personal loss to prevent a greater loss of letting other Muslim sisters becoming 'public properties'. Islam prefers giving women the honorable position by permitting the first option and disallowing the second. There are several other reasons, why Islam has permitted limited polygyny, but it is mainly to protect the modesty of women.

## 2. Hijab

The following examples from history amply illustrate the fact that the status of women in earlier civilizations was very low to the extent that they were denied basic human dignity:

### a. Babylonian Civilization:

The women were degraded and were denied all rights under the Babylonian law. If a man murdered a woman, instead of him being punished, his (killer's) wife was put to death.

### b. Greek Civilization:

Greek Civilization is considered the most glorious of all ancient civilizations.

Under this very 'glorious' system, women were deprived of all rights and were looked down upon. In Greek mythology, an 'imaginary woman' called

‘Pandora’ is the root cause of misfortune of human beings. The Greeks considered women to be subhuman and inferior to men. Though chastity of women was precious, and women were held in high esteem, the Greeks were later overwhelmed by ego and sexual perversions. Prostitution became a regular practice amongst all classes of Greek society.

c. Roman Civilization:

When Roman Civilization was at the zenith of its ‘glory’, a man even had the right to take the life of his wife. Prostitution and nudity were common amongst the Romans.

d. Egyptian Civilization:

The Egyptian considered women as evil and as a sign of a devil.

e. Pre-Islamic Arabia:

Before Islam spread in Arabia, the Arabs looked down upon women and very often when a female child was born, she was buried alive.

Islam uplifted the status of women and granted them their just rights 1400 years ago. Islam expects women to maintain their status.

People usually only discuss ‘hijab’ in the context of women. However, in the Glorious Qur’ān, Allah first mentions ‘hijab’ for men before ‘hijab’ for the women. The Glorious Qur’ān mentions:

“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do.” [Chapter The Light 24:30]

The moment a man looks at a woman and if any brazen or unashamed thought comes to his mind, he should lower his gaze.

The next verse says:

“And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands’ fathers, their sons...” [Chapter The Light 24:31]

Perfect ‘hijab’ also includes the moral conduct, behavior, attitude and intention of the individual. A person only fulfilling the criteria of ‘hijab’ of the clothes is observing ‘hijab’ in a limited sense. ‘Hijab’ of

the clothes should be accompanied by 'hijab' of the eyes, 'hijab' of the heart, 'hijab' of thought and 'hijab' of intention. It also includes the way a person walks, the way a person talks, the way he behaves, etc.

The Qur'an says that Hijab has been prescribed for the women so that they are recognized as modest women and this will also prevent them from being molested.

Western talk of women's liberalization is nothing but a disguised form of exploitation of her body, degradation of her soul, and deprivation of her honor. Western society claims to have 'uplifted' women. On the contrary it has actually degraded them to the status of concubines, mistresses and society butterflies who are mere tools in the hands of pleasure seekers and sex marketeers, hidden behind the colorful screen of 'art' and 'culture'.

United States of America is supposed to be one of the most advanced countries of the world. It also has one of the highest rates of rape in any country in the world. According to a FBI report, in the year 2018, every day on an average 382 official cases of rape were committed in U.S.A. alone. Consider a scenario where the Islamic hijab is followed in America. Whenever a man looks at a woman and any brazen or

unashamed thought comes to his mind, he lowers his gaze. In such a scenario, will the rate of rape in America increase, will it remain the same, or will it decrease? Hijab does not degrade a woman but uplifts a woman and protects her modesty and chastity.

Hijab is not introduced in Islam only rather previous religions also practiced hijab. The women around Jesus veiled themselves. Their garments were loose and covered their bodies completely, and they wore scarves which covered their hair. In Genesis 26:64-65, "And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she alighted from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man yonder, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself."

Some may argue that it was the general custom of those times to be completely veiled. However, that is not the case. In both Rome and Greece, whose cultures dominated the region, the popular dress was quite short and revealed the arms, legs and chest. Only religious women in Palestine, following Jewish tradition, covered themselves modestly.

According to Rabbi Dr. Menachem M. Brayer (Professor of Biblical Literature at Yeshiva University),

it was customary the Jewish women went out in public with a head-covering which, sometimes, even covered the whole face, leaving only one eye free. He further stated that "during the Tannaitic period, the Jewish woman's failure to cover her head was considered an affront to her modesty. When her head was uncovered she might be fined four hundred zuzim for this offence." (The Jewish Woman in Rabbinic Literature)

### 3. Women have no Rights

One of the first books written for woman rights was the "Vindication for the Rights of Women" by Mary Walsencraft which appeared in the 1800's. Thereafter the tradition of women receiving certain rights came. The first of these were basically legal rights because until the 1800's women were not able to own property and were not able to dispose of their wealth as men did. It is very well known that the first laws that allowed women to own property in the United States or in Europe appeared only in the last couple of decades of the 1800's.

The Industrial Revolution caused another impetus, another search, to this feminist movement. Women in the Industrial Revolution, especially England, were

forced to labor for many hours in the coal mines and so forth, and would receive no pay whatsoever compared to men. So therefore the first calling of the movement was that people who work the same amount of hours deserved the same amount of money or pay.

Aspect of religion, some of the canonized saints of Christianity have said about woman:

“Women is a daughter of Falsehood, a sentinel of Hell, the enemy of peace; through her Adam lost Paradise.”  
(St. John Damascene)

“Women is the instrument which the Devil uses to gain possession of our souls.” (St. Cyprian)

For the first time in history woman is given the same rights as those of man by Islam:

“And they (women) have rights similar to those of men over them in a just manner” (Chapter The Cow 2:228)

In marriage a woman is considered by Islam to be an equal and free partner. Marriage in Islam is a sacred contract between a man and a woman and the consent of both parties has to be taken before marriage can take place. The Glorious Qur'an

describes woman as a companion of her husband - an object of love and a source of peace and solace to him:

“And of His Signs is this: He created for you helpmates from among yourselves that ye may find rest in them and He ordained between you love and mercy. Lo, here indeed are portents for folk who reflect.”

(Chapter The Romans 30:21)

In Islam, God clearly gives mothers a high status and elevates their position in the family. In the Quran, God mentions all the sacrifices mothers make in bearing children to remind people to treat their mothers with love, respect, and care. Emphasizing the importance of mothers, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) declared:

“Paradise lies under the feet of your mother.”

On another occasion, a man repeatedly asked Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), “Who amongst the people is the most worthy of my good companionship?” Each time, the Prophet (Peace be upon him) replied, “Your mother.” When the man asked for the fourth time, he replied, “Your father.”

In Islam, women are not obligated to earn or spend any money on housing, food, or general expenses. If a

woman is married, her husband must fully support her financially and if she's not married, that responsibility belongs to her closest male relative (father, brother, uncle, etc). She also has the right to work and spend the money she earns as she wishes. She has no obligation to share her money with her husband or any other family members, although she may choose to do so out of good will.

At the time of marriage, a woman is entitled to a financial gift (dowry) from her husband. This dowry is legally owned by her and cannot be used by anyone else. In the case of divorce, she has the right to keep whatever she owned before the divorce and anything she personally earned after marriage. The former husband has no right whatsoever to any of her belongings. This ensures a woman's financial security and independence, allowing her to support herself in the case of divorce.

A woman has the right to accept or reject marriage proposals and her approval is required to complete the marriage contract. She cannot be forced to marry someone against her will and if this occurs for cultural reasons, it is in direct opposition of Islam. By the same principle, women also have the right to seek divorce if they are dissatisfied with their marriage.

In the Qur'an the story of the forbidden tree is mentioned in 3 Chapters (The Cow, The Heights, Thaha). In these Chapters it is mentioned that Adam and Eve were beguiled by Satan who persuaded them to eat of the forbidden tree. In none of them is it mentioned that it is Eve who seduced Adam to do that, thus the Qur'an delivers women of the original sin from which both the Jewish and Christian women suffer. According to Islam, it is not woman alone who sinned, both man and woman Adam and Eve responded to Satan's invitation and disobeyed their Lord.

#### 4. Islam Spread by Sword

Islam comes from the root word 'salaam', which means peace. It also means submitting one's will to Allah. Thus Islam is a religion of peace, which is acquired by submitting one's will to the will of the Supreme Creator, Allah.

Muslims ruled Spain for about 800 years. The Muslims in Spain never used the sword to force the people to convert. Later the Christian Crusaders came to Spain and wiped out the Muslims.

Muslims were the lords of Arabia for 1400 years. For a few years the British ruled, and for a few years the French ruled. Overall, the Muslims ruled Arabia for 1400 years. Yet today, there are 14 million Arabs who are Coptic Christians i.e. Christians since generations. If the Muslims had used the sword there would not have been a single Arab who would have remained a Christian.

The Muslims ruled India for about a thousand years. If they wanted, they had the power of converting each and every non-Muslim of India to Islam. Today more than 80% of the population of India are non-Muslims. All these non-Muslim Indians are bearing witness today that Islam was not spread by the sword.

Indonesia is a country that has the maximum number of Muslims in the world. The majority of people in Malaysia are Muslims. May one ask, “Which Muslim army went to Indonesia and Malaysia?”

Similarly, Islam has spread rapidly on the East Coast of Africa. One may again ask, if Islam was spread by the sword, “Which Muslim army went to the East Coast of Africa?”

With which sword was Islam spread? Even if Muslims had it they could not use it to spread Islam because the Glorious Qur'an says in the following verse: "Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error" [Chapter The Cow 2:256]

Actually it is the sword of intellect. The sword that conquers the hearts and minds of people. The Glorious Qur'an says:

"Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious." [Chapter The Bee 16:125]

Forcing people to believe in a religion or to adopt its forms of belief is completely contrary to the essence and spirit of Islam. According to Islam, true faith is only possible with free will and freedom of conscience.

An article in Reader's Digest 'Almanac', year book 1986, gave the statistics of the increase of percentage of the major religions of the world in half a century from 1934 to 1984. This article also appeared in 'The Plain Truth' magazine. At the top was Islam, which increased by 235%, and Christianity had increased only by 47%. May one ask, which war took place in this century which converted millions of people to

Islam? Today the fastest growing religion in America is Islam. The fastest growing religion in Europe is Islam. Which sword is forcing people in the West to accept Islam in such large numbers?

## 5. Muslims are Fundamentalists

Definition of fundamentalist is a person who follows and adheres to the fundamentals of the doctrine or theory he is following. For a person to be a good doctor, he should know, follow, and practice the fundamentals of medicine. In other words, he should be a fundamentalist in the field of medicine. For a person to be a good scientist, he should know, follow and practice the fundamentals of science. He should be a fundamentalist in the field of science.

One cannot paint all fundamentalists with the same brush. One cannot categorize all fundamentalists as either good or bad. Such a categorization of any fundamentalist will depend upon the field or activity in which he is a fundamentalist. A fundamentalist robber or thief causes harm to society and is therefore undesirable. A fundamentalist doctor, on the other hand, benefits society and earns much respect.

Same way each and every Muslims should follow fundamentals of Islam. That is adherent to Islamic teaching on the face of how much oppressions from devil and your carnal desires.

## 6. Terrorism and Jihad

The world community shares this small planet with the Muslim community which comprises some 1.2 billion adherents to the faith, so anyone who understands Islam to be a religion of terror would naturally be concerned. However, these fears are not well-grounded. Islam commands love, mercy and peace. Terror, on the other hand, is cruel, merciless and demands bloodshed and misery.

The first and the foremost basic right of a human being is the right to live. The Glorious Qur'an says: “...if any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people.” [Chapter The Table Spread 5:32]

Such is the value of a single human life, that the Qur'an equates the taking of even one human life

unjustly, with killing all of humanity. Thus, the Qur'an prohibits homicide in clear terms.

Islam engenders a faith and practice that makes the taking of innocent lives unimaginable and which is shared by the vast majority of Muslims worldwide. Muslims ruled Spain for roughly 800 years. During this time, and up until they were finally forced out, the non-Muslims there were alive and flourishing. Additionally, Christian and Jewish minorities have survived in the Muslim lands of the Middle East for centuries. Countries such as Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan all have significant Christian and/or Jewish populations. However the radicals appear to have overlooked this pivotal pillar with their new interpretations of Sacred Law. Recent past colonialists allowed individuals to make literal and extreme interpretations of Sacred Law that are in contradiction to and radically different from the previous centuries of traditional Islamic practice and learning. Muhammad, the Messenger of God, Peace be upon him, forewarned of such a time when "... people will take the ignorant as leaders who are asked for and who give Islamic legal opinion without knowledge they are misguided and misguiding." The result has been examples of extreme religious practice devoid of any real knowledge and

characterized by bigotry, intolerance, harshness and excessiveness – all of which are in opposition to Islam as exemplified by the Messenger of God, Peace be upon him, who always advocated the middle way. Muslim jurists considered terrorist attacks against unsuspecting and defenseless victims as heinous and immoral crimes and treated the perpetrators as the worst type of criminals.

In the West, the term 'Jihad' has come to be known as something wholly negative - it has been somewhat simplistically described as waging a holy war against infidels. However, in Islam, jihad is something that is positive. It consists of two dimensions: the inner jihad that seeks to curb negative and self-destructive forces within; and the external jihad which is a struggle against violence and tyranny by means of words and actions. As for the latter, it has strict rules of engagement which prohibit destroying civilian life, harming animals and even chopping down trees.

The former type of jihad, said to be the most important, is that of the inner self. On an occasion, the Messenger of God addressed his companions, saying: "We are now returning from the minor jihad to the major jihad (that of the struggle of the inner self.)"

Compassion in Islam is not restricted to Muslims only, but it also requires sensitivity to the suffering of others. In a tradition, the Messenger of God (Peace be upon him), declared that 'All the creatures are the Ayaal (family) of Allah. The more beloved of Allah, among His creatures, therefore, is the man who is good to His family, ie creatures.'

A Muslim cannot be considered to be compassionate while there is suffering and injustice around them. It is for this reason, that Islam requires the community of believers to be one in which caring for your neighbors is an integral component of belief. The concern for your neighbor irrespective of whether they are Muslim or not) is so crucial, that the Prophet (Peace be upon him), used to say that 'He is not perfect believer who eats to his satisfaction and sleeps comfortably in the night while his neighbour goes hungry, and he is aware of it.'

During World War 2, The Nazi and Fascists killed more than forty million people. Both the victims and the criminals were 99% Christians. Nobody claimed that Christians are blood-suckers or that Christianity is the religion of blood-shedding or black violence. Christianity calls for mercy, tolerance and absolute lenience. There is a wide gap between Christianity and

the fanatic Christians of the middle ages who persecuted those who belonged to other sects or different ethnic origins. In the same way there are great differences between the fanatic Muslims (very few of them are terrorists) who due to narrow-mindedness, slavish interpretation of text and the tendency to assume political hegemony and the spirit of Islam which calls for moderation and mercy. Islam has never been an aggressive or subversive faith but its image has been distorted by the fanatics who are a rejected minority in every society.

As is known, for centuries, various acts of terrorism have been carried out in different parts of the world by different groups for a variety of purposes.

Sometimes a communist organization, sometimes a fascist group, and sometimes radical and separatist factions assume responsibility for these acts. While countries like America often became the target of attacks by racist and marginal terrorist groups, the European countries have been center stage for violent acts carried out by terrorist groups. 17 November in Greece, RAF (Red Army Faction) and Neo-Nazis in Germany, ETA in Spain, Red Brigades in Italy, The day from independence of India till today hardline Hindus riots on Muslims and many other organizations seek

to make their voices heard through terror and violence by killing innocent and defenseless people.

Besides the Western organizations, there are also other terror organizations of Middle East origin. Terrorist attacks are carried out by these groups in all corners of the world. Sadly, the fact that the perpetrators of various terrorist acts carry Christian, Hindu, Muslim or Jewish identities cause some people to put forward claims which do not concur with divine religions. The truth is that even if terrorists have Muslim identities, the terror they perpetrate cannot be labelled "Islamic terror", just as it could not be called "Jewish terror" if the perpetrators were Jews or "Christian terror" if they were Christians. We cannot blame religion for the errors of those who use its name or symbols to justify their heinous actions.

Before India achieved independence from British rule, some freedom fighters of India who did not subscribe to non-violence were labeled as terrorists by the British government. The same individuals have been lauded by Indians for the same activities and hailed as 'patriots'. Thus two different labels have been given to the same people for the same set of actions. One is calling him a terrorist while the other is calling him a patriot. Those who believed that Britain had a right to

rule over India called these people terrorists, while those who were of the view that Britain had no right to rule India called them patriots and freedom fighters.

It is therefore important that before a person is judged, he is given a fair hearing. Both sides of the argument should be heard, the situation should be analyzed, and the reason and the intention of the person should be taken into account, and then the person can be judged accordingly.

In Islam permission to fight is given to those who are fought against because they have been wronged - truly God has the power to come to their support - those who were expelled from their homes without any right, merely for saying, "Our Lord is God"...

[Chapter The Pilgrimage 22:39-40]

In brief, Muslims were allowed to wage war only because they were oppressed and subjected to violence. To put it in another way, God granted permission for war only for defensive purposes. In other verses, Muslims are warned against the use of unnecessary provocation or violence.

The best way of understanding a religion is to study its divine source. Islam's divine source is the Glorious Qur'an, which is based on concepts of morality, love, compassion, humility, sacrifice, tolerance and peace. A Muslim who lives by those precepts in its true sense will be most polite, careful of thought, modest, just, trustworthy and easy to get on with. He will spread love, respect, harmony and the joy of living all around him.

7. All Religions teach people to be righteous, then why follow only Islam?

All religions basically exhort mankind to be righteous and eschew evil. But Islam goes beyond that. It guides us towards practical ways of achieving righteousness and eliminating evil from our individual and collective lives.

Islam prescribes a system of Zakat (obligatory annual charity). Islamic law prescribes that every person who has a saving that exceeds the Nisab level of wealth (i.e. in value of more than 85 grams of gold), should give 2.5% of that saving every lunar year in charity. If every rich person in the world gave Zakat sincerely, poverty will be eradicated from this world. Not a single human being would die of hunger.

All the major religions declare the molestation and rape of women as grave sins. Islam teaches the same. What then is the difference between Islam and the other religions? The difference lies in the fact that Islam does not merely preach respect for women, or abhor molestation and rape as serious crimes, but also gives clear guidance as to how society can eliminate such crimes. Practice of Hijab prevents molestation.

## 8. Don't believe hereafter - life after death

People assume that anyone believing in the hereafter is doing so on the basis of blind belief. We will try to explain based on logical arguments.

Concept of peace and human values is useless without the concept of hereafter.

Is robbing a good or an evil act? A normal balanced person would say it is evil.

How would a person who does not believe in the hereafter convince a powerful and influential criminal that robbing is evil?

Suppose I am the most powerful and influential criminal in the world. At the same time I am an Intelligent and a logical person. I say that robbing is good because it helps me lead a luxurious life. Thus robbing is good for me. If anybody can put forward a

single logical argument as to why it is evil for me, I will stop immediately. People usually put forward the following arguments:

a. The person who is robbed will face difficulties

Some may say that the person who is robbed will face difficulties. I certainly agree that it is bad for the person who is robbed. But it is good for me. If I rob a thousand dollars, I can enjoy a good meal at a 5 star restaurant.

b. Someone may rob you

Some people argue that someday I may be robbed. No one can rob me because I am a very powerful criminal and I have hundreds of bodyguards. I can rob anybody but nobody can rob me. Robbing may be a risky profession for a common man but not for an influential person like me.

c. The police may arrest you

Some may say, if you rob, you can be arrested by the police. The police cannot arrest me because I have the police on my payroll. I have the ministers on my payroll. I agree that if a common man robs, he will be arrested and it will be bad for him, but I am an extraordinarily influential and powerful criminal. Give me one logical reason why it is bad for me and I will stop robbing.

d. It is against humanity

Some may say it is against humanity and that a person should care for other human beings. I counter argue by asking as to who wrote this law called 'humanity' and why should I follow it?

This law may be good for the emotional and sentimental people but I am a logical person and I see no benefit in caring for other human beings.

Hence all arguments that attempt to prove that robbing is an evil act are futile.

These arguments may satisfy a common man but not a powerful and influential criminal like me. None of the arguments can be defended on the strength of reason and logic. It is no surprise that there are so many criminals in this world.

Similarly raping, cheating etc. can be justified as good for a person like me and there is no logical argument that can convince me that these things are bad.

### Believe Hereafter

Every human being wants justice:

Each and every human being desires justice. Even if he does not want justice for others he wants justice for himself. Some people are intoxicated by power and influence and inflict pain and suffering on others.

What punishment can the human law give Hitler? Hitler incinerated six million Jews during his reign of terror. Even if the police had arrested him, what punishment can the human law give Hitler for justice to prevail? The most they can do is to send Hitler to the gas chamber. But that will only be punishment for the killing of one Jew. What about the remaining five million, nine hundred and ninety nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine Jews?

There are few religions like Buddhism they believe bad people again born with different creature. Assume Hitler born as dog and became United States president (2022) Joe Biden's dog namely 'Commander'. Or puppy 'Fergus' who is belongs to Queen Elizabeth (2021) UK. Human Hitler; killer of six million, born as dog and enjoying White House treatment or Queen's Windsor Castle treatment. If someone not believe hereafter then is this not injustice? Or He born as a snake or crocodile and living in a Zoo comfortably? Still he is enjoining good treatment where he gets food on time without searching or effort.

Allah can burn Hitler more than six million times in hellfire:

Allah say in the Glorious Qur'an:

“Those who reject Our signs, We shall soon cast into the Fire; as often as their skins are roasted through, We shall change them for fresh skins, that they may taste the penalty: for Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise”  
[Chapter The Woman 4:56]

If Allah wishes he can incinerate Hitler six million times in the hereafter in the Hellfire.

It is clear that without convincing a person about the hereafter, i.e. life after death, the concept of human values and the good or evil nature of acts is impossible to prove to any person who is doing injustice especially when he is influential and powerful.

God is Most Powerful and Just:

As a Muslim I would convince the criminal about the existence of Almighty God. This God is more powerful than you and at the same time is also just. The Glorious Qur'an says:

“Allah is never unjust in the least degree” [Chapter The Woman 4:40]

Final Justice on day of Judgment:

The Glorious Qur'an says:

“Every soul shall have a taste of death: and only on the Day of Judgment shall you be paid your full

recompense. Only he who is saved far from the Fire and admitted to the Garden will have attained the object (of life): for the life of this world is but goods and chattels of deception.” [Chapter The Family of Imran 3:185]

Final justice will be meted out on the Day of Judgment. After a person dies, he will be resurrected on the Day of Judgment along with the rest of mankind. It is possible that a person receives part of his punishment in this world. The final reward and punishment will only be in the hereafter. God Almighty may not punish a robber or a rapist in this world but he will surely be held accountable on the Day of Judgment and will be punished in the hereafter i.e. life after death.

## Prophets are Noblemen Selected by God

Human history is full of the records of thousands of remarkable personalities who set their lives as examples for the future generations. You may find among them mighty emperors holding their magnificent courts; great army generals; serene thinkers and solemn philosophers; intimidating conquerors; poets lost in their dream world and the

rich surrounded by their treasures and luxuries. The life of each one of these has a special glamour and a tremendous appeal for the ordinary folk. Be it Hanibal of Carthage, Alexander of Macedonia, Caesar of Rome, Darius of Persia or Napoleon of France, all of them hold a special fascination for common people. Similarly, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Diogenes and other Greek philosophers like them, along with Spencer and their likes have an attraction of their own. In short there are hundreds of different kinds of examples for the ordinary human being to follow. But of all these various types, which one can guarantee a peaceful and happy life and show the way to eternal salvation? Among these examples, which one deserves to be followed? There are conquerors and great leaders of men who changed the shape of the world with the might of their swords. But did they leave anything behind for the well being of humanity? Their glory was limited to the battlefield alone and they failed to free humanity from the grip of superstition and evil thoughts. They could never solve the complex problems of human relationship. Did they leave any plan for the progress of human civilization? Did they have any answers for our spiritual problems, our miseries and despair? Did they set any guidelines for building a noble human character bearing high morals?

This world of ours has produced numerous great poets too. But these rulers of the world of fancy have utterly failed in the practical world of reality. Therefore, Plato would have no use for them in his ideal Republic. Since Homer to the present time, what have they contributed to solving human problems? They have only supplied a momentary gratification of certain human emotions and created a fanciful world of unreal pains and pleasures. They have failed to leave a healthy impact on human life because their sweet and fancy words are not backed by actual deeds. The Glorious Qur'an says:

“As for the poets, they are followed by the straying people. Did you not see that they wander in every valley, And that they say what they do not? Except those who believe and do righteous deeds...” [Chapter The Poets 26: 224-227]

The Divine verses have exposed the emptiness of their sweet words and have explained why they fail to leave any deep impression on life. They are insincere (they preach what they do not practice). They lack a serious purpose in life.

Therefore, they wander in the world created by their own imagination. If they had faith and sincerity of purpose they would leave some impact on life.

However, they cannot carry the burden of showing the light of guidance to the whole world. The history of the world bears witness to this fact.

Great thinkers and philosophers who have changed the course of life several times over and who have put forth brilliant theories to explain the riddle of life have failed to offer any practical and realistic solutions for human problems. They have failed to lighten the burden of humanity because their deep and subtle theories were not accompanied by any practical examples for the ordinary people to follow. Aristotle was the founder of the philosophy of ethics. His philosophy is still the subject of many brilliant lectures in universities all over the world and he is paid tribute for his lofty ideas in ethical philosophy. But, realistically speaking, how many people gave up their evil ways and came to the right path because of him? Today, in every university of the world you will find great professors and teachers of ethics but their knowledge and influence is limited to the boundary walls of their schools, because when they come out in practical life, they are no different from ordinary human beings. Man is not made by words alone. Actions speak louder.

On the stage of this world great kings and powerful rulers have made their appearance, too. They have had absolute control over vast empires. They have plundered and dominated whole nations of the world. They have devastated some countries and built others. They have degraded one nation and raised the other, snatching from one and giving to the other.

Although the terror of their swords forced criminals to escape into the underworld, they were utterly helpless in wiping out crimes. They were able to establish superficial peace and security in towns and streets, but they had no peace to offer to the human hearts. They established law and order in their countries but the spiritual kingdom remained beyond their reach. In fact, all kinds of spiritual devastation and moral decay took root in their royal courts and then spread all over the world. Did despots like Alexander or Caesar leave a heritage for the human beings to be proud of?

This world has seen great law makers too, like Solon (an Athenian poet and statesman of the seventh century B.C., known for his legal reforms) but their laws did not last long and their followers could not find the secret to the purification of the human heart. The following generations found their laws unsuitable

for the needs of their time or rather incompatible with their own selfish interests. So those laws were repealed and replaced by other laws in the name of public welfare and reform. Does the situation look any different in our own times? In our age of modern civilization, parliaments and legislative assemblies are formed which make one law today only to be replaced by another tomorrow, usually not for the welfare of the public but to serve those in power.

My dear friends! By now you must have formed some idea of the higher classes of the human race who could be expected to lead the way to human welfare and reform. But you have to carefully consider and think deeply to ask yourselves a question. The little decency that we find in the world today, the glimmer of virtue, the sincerity and purity of human hearts is not the result of the teachings of the noblest amongst the human race, known as the Prophets of Allah? (Peace be upon them all) Wherever you find a trace of virtue, of love, of sympathy and consideration, of justice and fairness, of helping the unfortunate and the poor and caring for the orphans you will notice that it is the fruit of the teachings of one of those noble men of Allah.

Today we see the light of their teachings and traces of their call reflected in all nations and all countries. Be it the “savages” of Africa or the civilized Europeans, the purification of their hearts is done by the same Divine source. Of all the leaders of human beings, the Prophets of God are the noblest and most exalted. They do not control the human bodies like kings but their domain is the kingdom of souls. They win the human hearts. They do not carry the power of the sword, yet they wipe out sin and cleanse the human soul. They are not masters of the art of poetry, yet the sweetness of their words is still felt in human culture. Although, apparently they were not senators or legislators, yet laws given by them are still alive and prevail over the ruler and the ruled, the poor and the rich alike, treating everyone equally and fairly.

Perhaps you can now conclude that if anyone has ever sincerely and successfully strived for the well being of mankind and for the lofty ideal of spreading virtuous deeds, good morals, purity of hearts, and moderation and balance in human actions, it is the noble group of the prophets of God. They were selected and sent by Allah, the Creator and Sustainer of mankind, and they showed people the right path. They taught people the way of decency and goodness and left behind them shining examples of knowledge and noble conduct.

Their instructions and guidance continue to inspire and show the way to the kings and their subjects, the poor and the rich, the illiterate and the scholars alike. Following their guidance lays the cure for all our spiritual diseases and moral weaknesses. These are the holy men of Allah who received a direct guidance from Him and spread its light all over the known world at different times in human history. If we find any degree of success or bliss or nobility of character or other higher human values and virtues in our lives to day, it is due to the blessing and the mission of these holy men of Allah. The traces of their teachings are scattered everywhere and they continue to show the world the way to eternal success.

There is no doubt that people from all walks of life have contributed towards building the human civilization and culture as it stands today and have in their own way worked for the betterment, welfare and happiness of mankind. Their accumulative efforts have helped man to earn his position as the noblest of Allah's creatures in the universe. Astronomers have traced the movements of planets; scientists have found out the properties and characteristics of various substances; doctors have found remedies for diseases; architects have evolved the art of building beautifully and craftsmen have introduced numerous crafts and

skills. Their combined efforts have made our world a highly developed and sophisticated place to live. They all deserve our collective gratitude. But we are really grateful to those who have made our inner life and spiritual world. They have strived to remove the baser desires from our hearts and purify them from greed and selfishness. They have evolved remedies for our spiritual ailments and found a cure for our diseased souls. They have given our emotions, our feelings and our intentions proper direction following which we can attain great purity of heart. They have made our souls sublime and have warned us of other ways which lead to total destruction of the human soul and make it the lowest of the low. It is their teaching which has completed the shape of the civilized world and showed it the proper way of living. As a result good moral conduct and noble behavior is considered the essence of humanity. Undoubtedly human society is established on the principles of justice, goodness, sympathy and consideration for one another. They have shown us the way to recognize and strengthen our link with Allah, our Creator and Sustainer and our Master. And they have reminded us of our covenant with Allah wherein each human soul had acknowledged and testified (in their prenatal existence) that Allah is their Creator, Cherisher and Sustainer.

Only through this Divine knowledge and guidance revealed to these noble men of Allah can we understand the secrets of complex human nature, and find our true destiny and real happiness. A world ignorant of their teachings would remain incomplete and lacking and would never become harmonious as a whole. Therefore, this exalted and purest group of the human race deserves our greatest gratitude because we are indebted to them more than anyone else. Even human being, regardless of his creed and country ought to pay tribute to them.

## Historical Soundness

What is meant here by historical soundness is that whatever events are recorded in the life history of an ideal person must be authentic and true, and those reporting and recording such events should also be reliable and trustworthy. Otherwise they will be no more than myths or fictional stories. It is a matter of human psychology and a simple everyday experience that myths or imaginary stories do not leave a deep and lasting impression on human behavior as do the true events in the life of a real personality. Therefore it is essential for an ideal biography to be free from all

doubts, and all of its major events must be supported by sound historical proof.

All the nations of the world, the Hindus claim to be the oldest in history.

They are not Muslim but their religion contains hundreds of holy characters.

None of them can lay a claim to “historicity” (having verifiable historical details).

Many of them are just mentioned by name and hardly ever cross the border of mythology into the world of history. The best known amongst them are the heroes of the ancient Indian epics Mahabharata and Ramayana. But the events of their life cannot be considered history. To what period of history do they belong?

Nobody can tell. Only recently a few European historians have ventured to determine approximately the era to which they might belong. That is about the only evidence the Hindus can come up with, whereas most European scholars do not even consider them as history and doubt that those events ever took place in the real world.

The founder of the ancient Persian religion, Zoroaster, is still idealized by millions.

Yet, historically he is an obscure personality, to the extent that some American and European scholars

doubt that such a person ever lived. Amongst the orientalists who concede that he had a historical existence, there is a great difference of opinion regarding his personal life. The picture that emerges through the research of these scholars is mainly based on guesswork. It is full of contradictions and conflicting opinions to such a degree that hardly anyone would like to make it a model on which to base their practical life. The time and place of Zoroaster's birth, his ancestry, his family, his faith, its propagation, the truthfulness of his scripture, his language, the time and place of his death are some of the facts of his life which raise hundreds of questions and there is hardly a shred of sound evidence that could answer them. The Parsees themselves (Zoroaster's followers) have to depend on the research done by the American or European scholars rather than their own sources. The fact is that Zoroaster's life remains obscure due to lack of historical evidence and that in itself is a proof that his life history was not meant to last forever. It is this lack of evidence that led the scholars like Kern and Dar Metatar to claim that Zoroaster never existed as a historical person.

We get to know Moses (Peace be upon him) from Torah. But the Torah that exists today, according to the writers of Encyclopedia Britannica and some other scholars, came into being several hundred years after the death of Moses (Peace be upon him). Some German scholars have shown that in the present day Torah there are two different accounts of nearly every episode described in it. They exist side by side, sometimes contradicting each other. The details of this theory can be seen in the Encyclopedia Britannica under the heading 'Bible'. This leaves all the events in Torah about Moses or even before him going back to Adam (Peace be upon him) historically unsound and unreliable.

The Gospels in the Bible are the descriptions of the life and teachings of Christ (Peace be upon him). But of the many Gospels only four are recognized by a major part of the Christian world. None of the authors of the four gospels ever met Christ in person. What was their source of information? No one can answer that question. It is even doubtful whether the four were the actual authors of those gospels. It cannot be clearly established in what languages were the gospels written and when they were written. The languages of the revelations to the Jews and Christians have long been dead. Today nobody can speak those languages

and only a few scholars claim to be able to decipher them. Even if these scriptures had been preserved to this day in their original and unadulterated form, nobody could correctly understand them and interpret their injunctions, much less translate them into actual practice.

For a life history to become an ideal for all times, and a model for everyone to follow, it is essential that every aspect of such a person's life should be in the open. No event should be left to secrecy or the darkness of uncertainty. All the events of his life should be as clearly known as the daylight so that his life could become an ideal for the human race.

If we make this a yardstick and measure the life histories of the great men of the past, including the founders of the great religions of the world, no one comes anywhere near this standard except the last Prophet of Allah, Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). We have already established that of the thousands of great Prophets and reformers, just a few can be regarded 'historic' in the sense that the details of their life history can be verified through authentic historical sources. Yet even they cannot lay a claim to 'comprehensiveness' because the important details of their life history are simply not available now. It is only

Prophet Muhammad's life which is completely known today, even to the minutest detail. This fact also makes it clear that he was the last Prophet of Allah (Peace be upon him).

We hold all the Prophets of God in great esteem, and believe in the truth of their mission and their being ordained only by Allah. But according to this Divine verse of the Glorious Qur'an:

"Those are the messengers some of whom We have given excellence over some others....." [Chapter The Cow 2:253]

We can say that Prophet Muhammad's (Peace be upon him) mission is different from others in the sense that it has been made universal by God, whereas the other Prophets were sent to a particular nation at a particular time of history. Their mission was not meant to last forever. Their purpose was to provide guidance for a given period therefore the details of their lives and mission, and of the nations they guided have been lost in history.

Let us consider the life of Buddha, one of the great men of history. Whatever we know of his life is based on conjecture or fiction. Even if we give those stories the status of history and look for the essential details

of Buddha's life we will be disappointed. All we get to know is that once upon a time there was a Raja who ruled the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal. The Raja's son had the natural inclination towards tradition and deep thinking. When he grew up, got married and became a father, he happened to notice the plight of some miserable people. Their suffering left such a deep mark on his sensitive nature that he gave up his princely life and left his home forever. His wanderlust took him to various cities of India like Banaras, Patliputra and the countryside and mountains. After a time, he is said to have found the truth while meditating under a tree in Gaya. He preached his new found truth from Banaras to Bihar for a period of time and then passed away. That is all we know about Buddha. Similarly, Zoroaster is the founder of a religion. We have established that what little is known about him is based on guesswork [Britannica].

The best known of the Prophets prior to Prophet Muhammad is Moses (Peace be upon them). For the sake of argument, we may disregard the point whether the present Torah is authentic and admit that whatever it says is true. What do we get to know about Moses from the five books of Torah put together? All that we know is that he was brought up in the house of the Pharaoh. When he grew up he

helped the children of Israel on an occasion or two against the oppression of the Pharaoh's men. He fled to Madayin, got married and having spent a considerable period of time there, returned to Egypt. On his way to Egypt, he was ordained a Prophet. He showed some miracles in front of the Pharaoh and asked him to let the children of Israel go with him. Eventually he left Egypt along with his people, pursued by the Pharaoh's army. By Allah's command the sea gave way to him and his people, whereas the Pharaoh and his men were drowned in the same water. He entered Arabia and then Syria and subdued a few non-believers. He lived like that for a period of time, grew old and died on a hill top. The concluding sentences of the Torah contain the following: "So the servant of the Lord died in the valley of Moab, by the command of his Lord. His burial took place at Bethpeor but no one knows his grave to this day. He was 120 years of age when he died. And no Prophet like Moses was ever born among Bani Israel."

These sentences belong to the fifth book of Torah which is ascribed to Moses. They make it clear that this book, or at least the last portion of it, cannot have been written by Moses. Who wrote them? The world does not know anything about this biographer of Moses.

The words that “no one knows his grave to this day” and “no Prophet like Moses was ever born among Bani Israel” indicate that they were written long after the death of Moses (Peace be upon him), long enough for people to have forgotten a personality like Moses, and when the advent of a new Prophet could have been expected.

Moses (Peace be upon him) lived to be 120. However; it will not be out of place to ask at this point an appropriate question. What events of his life do we actually know to fill a long span of a hundred and twenty years? Apart from his birth, his migration, marriage and his being ordained a Prophet, what essential details of his biography are known to us? What we do know are merely the personal details of one’s life which with slight variations are repetitious and insignificant. What we need in a great biography is a way of life full of essential details to be followed as a role model of a great moral conduct. These are the very ingredients missing from the biography of Moses (Peace be upon him). Otherwise, in Torah, there is no lack of insignificant details, such as names of persons, their ancestry, names of places, official counting of the population and some legal jargon. These details might be interesting for a research scholar interested in ancient geography, chronology, ancestry and law but

have no value at all as the biography of a great leader of men who could guide them through his practical example.

In point of time the nearest to Islam is the Prophet of God, Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him). You will be shocked to learn that biographically he is the least known of all the Prophets and founders of well-known religions. It is interesting to note that Christian scholars of modern Europe have made astounding discoveries in their chosen fields of antiquity and archaeology. They have unearthed and made known the ancient secrets of the Assyrian and Babylonian empires, of Arabia and Syria, of Egypt and Africa, of India and Turkistan of the old. They have excavated the ancient ruins and studied old books and parchments to rewrite the lost pages of human history. However, the miracle of modern research has failed to resurrect the actual events of the life of Jesus Christ, lost to the passage of time for ever. Professor Renan did all he could, but failed to produce any authentic account of Christ's life.

It might be worthwhile to quote here from an article on Jesus Christ written for the Encyclopedia Britannica by Rev Dr. Charles Anderson Scot. He says that the attempt to write a "life of Jesus" should frankly be

abandoned. The material for it certainly does not exist. He has calculated that the total number of days of the life regarding which we have any record does not exceed fifty.

According to the Bible, Jesus had a life of 33 years. Firstly, the present day Bible is historically unreliable. However, whatever we get to know from it concerns only the events of the last three years of his life. All we can learn, from the Bible is that he was born and after his birth was brought to Egypt. He showed a few miracles in his early youth and then disappeared. When we meet him next, he is 30 years of age, baptizing and giving sermons to people in the mountains and to fishermen by the riverside. He produces a few disciples, gets into discussions with the Jews. Eventually the Jews capture him and produce him in the court of the Roman governor where his case is heard and the sentence of crucifixion is passed on him. On the third day after the crucifixion his grave is found to be empty. The world will never know what happened during a period of 25 to 30 years of his life. Even the last years of the Bible's account do not contain more than his few miracles, a few sermons and finally his crucifixion.

## The Most Comprehensive and Eternal Model

All those good men who have contributed to the betterment of human life deserve our gratitude but the ones who have done mankind the greatest favor are the Prophets and Messengers of Allah, ordained by Him to show His servants the right path (May Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon them all). Each one of them, in his own time and in front of his own people, showed the highest and the noblest examples of human character in a miraculous manner. Some of them showed the ideal example of fortitude; some of self-denial; some of sacrifice; some of love for the Truth; some of their enthusiasm in submission to the Will of Allah; some of piety, and yet some others for austerity. In short, each of them is a lighthouse of guidance showing the right way in the complexities of human life. But we were in need of one who could light the path of human life from end to end; who could provide the light of guidance with the brightness of his own personal and practical examples. In other words, who could provide us with a guide book of practical examples following which all of us could reach the goal of our life in peace and comfort. And the one chosen to perform this task is the last in the

chain of the Prophets of Allah, Prophet Muhammad (May Allah's Blessings and Peace be upon them).

In the words of the Glorious Qur'an:

"O Prophet, We have sent you as a witness and as a bearer of good news and a warner, and as the one who calls (people) towards Allah with His permission, and as a luminous lamp." [Chapter The Coalition 33:45-46]

He is witness to the Divine Guidance and instruction sent down by Almighty Allah; he brings the good news of an eternally successful life and the permanent joy of the hereafter (Paradise) to the righteous. To those who are still ignorant of the Truth he brings the divine warning to make them aware and alert. Those who are lost in the mad struggle of this temporary world are called back by him to Allah. He is a beacon of light that shows the right way and removes the darkness of doubt and ignorance. He was chosen to be the last of Allah's Prophets after whom no Prophet was ever to be sent by Allah. He was sent with a code of life which was complete and final. No one was ever going to come to modify it or add anything to it. His instruction was definitive and eternal. It was to remain intact till the Day of Judgment.

In our world, religions are of two kinds: the ones that do not recognize the existence of God, such as Buddhism and Jainism. Therefore there is no mention of God's attributes and what the human beings owe Him. It would be futile to look for such attributes as sincerity, love of God and faith in His Oneness in the life of the founders of these religions. The other kind is those religions that believe in God in one form or the other. However, the available records of the lives of their Prophets or founders do not contain the details of their quest for God. In what attributes of God did they believe in? How devoted were they in their belief?

Such details are simply not available in their biographies to show us what our belief should be about God. Apart from the Oneness of God, His Commandments, and conditions for offering sacrifice, there is not a single sentence in the whole of Torah to show how devoted Moses was to Allah. There is no mention of the intensity of his love for God, his faith and trust in Him, the deep impression that Allah's Glorious attributes left on his heart and his devotion and worship of Allah. Whereas it may be asked if Moses' religion was to be the final religion and for all time, it was the sacred duty of his followers to record all these details for the benefit of the coming

generations. But they failed to do so simply because it was not Allah's intention.

The only outstanding feature of the life of Moses is his leadership in war. Apart from that, his followers cannot find a model for their guidance in their worldly affairs regarding their rights and obligations towards one another. What was his attitude with respect to the family relations, like that of a husband and wife, a father and son, and with respect to brothers and friends? In what useful projects did he spend his money? How did he treat the sick, the orphans, the wayfarers, the poor and the needy? Are there any details available of his personal example touching these important aspects of human life which his followers could follow?

Moses was married; he had children and had a brother and other relatives. It is our faith that being a Prophet of Allah his treatment of them must have been perfect and beyond any blemish. Yet, this very important chapter is missing from any available history of his life which could become an example for us to follow.

The life of Jesus Christ is mirrored in the Bible. We learn from the gospels that God was the father of

Jesus. But we learn nothing about the nature of the relations between the son and the father. Although we get to know that the Father had great love for the son, but it is not clear to what extent was the son's love and devotion for the Father. How did he offer his prayers to Him? Did he ever ask Him for anything other than the daily bread? Was there any night other than the night of his arrest where he is shown to be supplicating and praying to his Lord. If the life history of such a great Prophet of Allah like Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him) is so sketchy and devoid of all necessary details, what spiritual benefit can be derived from such a biography?

Jesus Christ had a mother and according to the present version of the Bible he had brothers and sisters and even a physical father. But the available records of his life are silent about his treatment and dealings with them. These very relations have always been the backbone of this worldly life and so will they remain. A major part of religion is concerned with these relationships and obligations towards them. Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him) was never a ruler. Rather, he led the life of the ruled. Therefore, his life does not show any examples of a ruler's duties towards his subjects. He was never married; His life cannot become a practical example for those couples

who are tied into a stronger bond than the one between parents and their children (according to the first chapter of Torah).

Since most of this world's people lead a married life, they cannot find a practical example in Christ's life. The worldly aspect of this life is concerned with family relations, monetary deals, affairs of war and peace, dealing with friends and foes. One who remained aloof from all of these affairs cannot become a model for others. If the whole world followed that kind of life today it would soon turn as silent as a graveyard. All kind of progress would stop, and particularly the Christian Europe of today would cease to exist.

Consider human rights and obligations towards one another. With the only exception of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) the biographies of all other Prophets and founders of other religions are devoid of this basic value of human life. For instance, Buddha left his wife and immediate family alone and took to the Jungle. He never saw his loving wife and his only son ever again. Cut off from his friends and the burden of ruling his people, he thought he could find peace of mind or nirvana in solitude and that was to be the basic purpose of human life. If Buddha's life was the ideal life, what attraction is there in it for the

people of this world which includes kings and their subjects, the rich and the poor, masters and servants, fathers and sons, brothers and sisters, friends and foes? Can his life become a model for the worldly traders and Buddhist monks at the same time? That is the reason his own followers never actually followed him, otherwise the flourishing industries and thriving businesses of China, Japan, Thailand, Tibet and Burma would have come to a standstill and their bustling cities would have turned into ruins.

**Practicability:** The last criterion for an ideal model is that his life example should be practical and practicable. What is meant here is that the founder of a religion or the divine law-giver should set a personal example for the discipline he has proposed for others and his personal life should explain and prove to the world that the rules he has set forth are practicable.

It is not too difficult for anyone to present a charming philosophy, an attractive theory, or a fascinating saying. But what is difficult for everyone at all times is to practice what they preach. A person's lofty and pure thoughts his innocent and noble sayings, his moral and ethical philosophies alone cannot make him an ideal and perfect model. This has to be the

criterion, otherwise who would be able to tell the good from the bad, and this world would remain a place for only those who have a persuasive tongue and use beautiful words to their advantage. Will you allow me to ask a question at this point? Of the numerous law-givers and founders of different religions which one can come forward and have the practical aspect of his biography be judged by this standard?

Let us consider some very attractive and charming sayings attributed to Jesus Christ in the present day Bible:

“Love your Lord God with all your heart. Love your enemy. Offer your left cheek to the one who has hit you on the right cheek. One who takes you for forced labour for a mile without wages, go with him for two miles. One who asks you for your coat, give him your shirt too. Give all that you own in charity. Forgive your brother seventy times over. The rich will hardly enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

These and many such sayings are quite attractive. But if they are not accompanied by action, they remain only a combination of persuasive and charming words. How can a person (i.e. Jesus) set forth a practical example of forgiveness who has not actually

overcome an enemy? How can one look after the poor, the needy and the orphans if he is himself penniless? How could one become a model for a husband a father or other human relations if he himself did not have a wife and children or other relatives? How can one preach the virtue of visiting the sick and the destitute if he has not done so himself? If he has never got an opportunity to overcome his anger and forgive others, his life cannot become a model for those of us who have a quick temper.

What we are trying to make clear is the fact that a great human life whose practical aspect is not well known cannot become an ideal life for other human beings to follow. In order to follow a noble principle we need practical examples. We need to have actual deeds in front of us in order to learn and make the right choice in different situations of life such as war and peace; poverty and prosperity; marriage and celibacy; our relations with our Creator and His creation; with the rulers and the ruled; our conduct in anger and tranquility, in public and in private etc. The greater part of our life, in fact our whole life, is concerned with these problems and these relationships. In order to deal with them properly we need practical examples, not just words.

It is not a piece of oratory or poetic exaggeration but a proven and verifiable fact of history that the life of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is the only life which fulfills all the conditions and standards we have set forth so far.

Please consider our point once more very carefully. What we are trying to say and prove is that whatever model is chosen from the lives of great men of human history, it must have the following four qualities in order to be the ideal life or the ideal example to be followed by others. It must have authentic historical sources, and it must be comprehensive, perfect and practical. We do not mean to say that the lives of the other Prophets of Allah lacked these qualities in their own times. What we are trying to maintain is that whatever remnants of their life histories reached the common people after their period, or the ones existing today, lack the qualities of authenticity, comprehensiveness, perfection and practicality. And that was precisely the demand of the Divine wisdom, so that it should become evident that those Prophets were sent at particular periods of time to particular nations. The Divine message given through them was not meant to be universal. Therefore there was no need to preserve it for the other nations and the times to come. Only Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon

him) was chosen to be the Prophet for all nations, till the Day of Judgment. He was to be the perfect model, to be followed by everyone. That is why his life was preserved to its smallest detail, in its eternal glory and perfection for all times to come. And this fact remains the strongest practical proof of his being “the Seal of Prophets” and of his mission for all mankind.

Historicity: Let us now consider the life of the Prophet of Islam (Peace be upon him) in the light of the four criteria set forth previously. The first one is “historicity”.

In this regard, the whole world agrees and marvels at the way the followers of Islam have meticulously preserved not only the record of their Prophet’s life but also everything even remotely concerned with his noble personality. There have been narrators and biographers who devoted their life in collecting, recording, classifying and narrating the Prophets sayings, his deeds and everything related to his life. These biographers include his own worthy companions who were his direct disciples, and then those who learnt from them, and then the generation coming immediately after them. All these information was collected, written and arranged, the personal information about each narrator was also recorded

which included such important features as the narrator's name and family background, his life history, his moral and ethical conduct, etc. The number of these biographical notes is nearly many hundred thousand. This collection is known as Asma-ur-Rijal. It is about this branch of knowledge that German Orientalist Dr. Springer, while editing 'Al-Isabah fi Tamizis-Sahabah' (Arabic Book), remarked: "No nation in the past or in modern times ever invented an outstanding science like Asma-ur-Rijal that provides information about five hundred thousand Muslims."

If the written heritage is the only dependable source to the modern mind, the Holy Prophet's worthy companions collected enough of it with their own hands and passed it onto the next generation (to 'Tabi'een'). In their turn, they preserved it and included it in their own books. Now, we would like to say that in the very life time of the Holy Prophet's companions their disciples had begun, researched and compiled the traditions, the incidents and the records of the Holy Prophet's life. They collected and verified this information by asking each and every man and woman, young or old, who knew anything at all about any aspect of the Holy Prophet's life. Amongst the

hundreds of Tabi'een who contributed to this noble mission, by collecting even the minutest details of the Holy Prophet's biography.

Whenever other [non-Muslim] nations of the world have tried to write their history from an oral tradition, this is what they have done. The events are recorded a long time after their occurrence. All kinds of stories are recorded without checking their sources or their credibility. In some cases absolutely nothing is known of the people narrating a particular event. Then out of those myths some events are selected which seem reasonable and likely to have happened and others are discarded. After a while the stories attain the status of history. The ancient European history is no exception to this way of recording history.

On the other hand, the Muslims have set up a very strict and a very high standard of recording the biography of their Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) and have turned it into an art form. The first principle of this discipline was to record an event in the words of a person who was himself part of that event or had personally witnessed it. If he was not an eye witness, he would record the names of all the persons narrating that particular event up to the person who

had eye witnessed it. Then he would record personal information about everyone included in the chain of narration, This usually included such details as to the name of the reporters, who they were, what they did, what they were like, what their moral character was like, whether they were intelligent or not, whether they were trustworthy or unreliable, if they were superficial or given to deep thought, if they were well-versed in knowledge or simply ignorant etc. It was extremely difficult to collect such minute and exact details about every person who had narrated a tradition. But thousands of dedicated Muslim scholars spent a lifetime compiling this information. They travelled from city to city only to meet personally a narrator of the holy Prophet's traditions, gathering detailed information about them. Through their untiring research they were able to invent a new art form in Islamic literature known as Asma-ur-Rijal. Today it enables us to know the biographical details of over hundred thousand people who took part in narrating a tradition of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him).

When we search historical evidences for other religions divine message, it is very little available to us. Eg: official historical documents of period of Jesus contain virtually no record of Jesus. A biblical scholar,

R.T. France, writes, "No 1<sup>st</sup> century inscription mentions him and no object or building has survived which has a specific link to him." (Time, 1995-Dec-18 page 46)

In the preface of 'The Myth of God Incarnate' the editor wrote the following: "In the nineteenth century, Western Christianity made two major new adjustments in response to important enlargements of human knowledge; it accepted that man is a part of nature and has emerged within the evolution of the forms of life on this earth; and it accepted that the books of the Bible were written by a variety of human beings in a variety of circumstances, and cannot be accorded a verbal divine authority."

Historical criticism has proved that the original teachings of Buddha can never be known. It seems that Gautama Buddha's teachings were memorized by his disciples. After Buddha's death a council was held at Rajagaha so that the words of Buddha could be recited and agreed upon. There were differences of opinion and conflicting memories in the council. Opinion of Kayshapa and Ananda who were prominent disciples of Buddha were given preference. A hundred years later, a second council at Vesali was held. Only after 400 years, after the death of Buddha were his teachings and doctrines written down. Little

attention was paid regarding its authenticity, genuineness and purity.

Perfectness of a biography: No life can serve as a model unless it shows perfectness in all aspects, even if it were based on historically sound and reliable sources. No life can be adjudged perfect and free of all shortcomings unless all its details are available to us.

Looking at the life of the Prophet of Islam (Peace be upon him) from this perspective, we find that every significant moment of his life from birth to death was known to the people of his time, and since then has been preserved in the history of the world. There has not been a single span of time from his whole life that remained unknown to his people.

His birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, manhood; his business deals, his travels; his marriage; his friends before his Prophethood; the advent of Islam; his call to Allah, his preaching of the Divine message; the opposition of the elite of Makkah; his journey to Taif (a city around 70km from Makkah); the Mi'raj (his ascendance to the Heavens); his migration to Madinah; his letters to various rulers of the World calling them to embrace Islam; serving Allah, the Creator and Nourisher of the Universe; the Spread of

Islam; the completion and perfection of the Divine Message; his Final Pilgrimage to Makkah and his death; in short every one of these events is before the whole world, clear and complete to the smallest detail. There is not a single aspect of his life hidden from history. Even the false and fabricated stories about him have been preserved and passed down to history by his Muslim biographers so that everybody could see the truth from false hood, the right from the wrong, and then form their own independent opinion. Sometimes one wonders why his Muslim biographers have saved the fabricated traditions together with the authentic traditions or the ones that show a weak link in the chain of narrators of those particular traditions. Perhaps there is a hand of Providence in that so that none of his opposers could say that his followers have tried to cover up the alleged weakness of their Prophet (Peace be upon him) by omitting certain traditions, like the objection raised against the Christian literature these days. Therefore, our worthy scholars have collected and presented the whole literature, including the fabricated reports about their Prophet (Peace be upon him) and have set down rules and produced historical evidence to tell the difference between the false and the true traditions.

Every detail of the Holy Prophet's life, as clear as the daylight, is known, written and preserved in books. Even the everyday routine is recorded, such as his manner of sitting and standing, sleeping and waking up; his marriage and children; his friends and companions; his praying and fasting; his worship during the day and night; his wars and peace; his travels; his manner of washing, bathing, eating, drinking; smiling, weeping, walking, talking; his jokes; his privacy, his public appearances, his manner of meeting others; his habits; his personal appearance.

Model: The greatest person cannot be great inside his house or his inner circle. Because he is not a model for them as the his all in and outs. But case of our Prophet it is different. He claimed to be a Prophet first to his wife, his personal servant, his cousin and his closest friend and none of them showed any hesitation at all in accepting the truth of his claim. No one knows the inherent weaknesses of a person better than his own wife. But is it not a fact that the first person to believe and declare her faith in the Prophet was his wife? She had shared fifteen years of married life with him before his Prophethood. She knew intimately all sides of his personality.

When he claimed to be a Prophet of Allah (Peace be upon him), she was the first to accept the veracity of that claim. The books of traditions are all full of the details of the Holy Prophet's perfect moral conduct and excellent human virtues.

You can well imagine now if any aspect of the Holy Prophet's life could have been left hidden from the world. His whole life was like an Open book and yet his worst enemies could not find any fault or weakness in his spotless character. Even today, many of his hostile biographers, particularly from the West, with all their research and scrutiny, have not been able to find any fault except their misconceived criticism of the questions of polygamy and the so-called holy war.

Look at the holy Prophet's life from another angle. He did not spend all his life amongst his followers and well wishers. In Makkah, he lived amongst the Qureish (his tribe), his avowed enemies. He had dealt with them as a trader at a time when pitfalls of dishonesty, unfair deals, going back on one's word were a common practice in that society. Before he was ordained the Prophet of Allah, he had spent forty years of his life with them, and because of his integrity, honesty and fairness in every deal that he made as a businessman had earned him the title of Al-

Amin (the trustworthy) from them. Even when they bitterly opposed him as the Prophet of Allah (because he called them to the worship of One God), they continued keeping their valuables in his trust. That is why at the time of his emigration to Madinah, he had left his cousin Ali behind in Makkah so that he could return people their valuables. When he declared his Prophethood to the Qureish, they became his bitter enemies and in their rage cut off all relations with him. They persecuted him, threw refuse and stones on him, plotted to kill him, called him names, called him a sorcerer, a poet and a lunatic but none of them could ever lay a finger on his spotless character and pure morals. To lay claim to Prophethood means to lay claim to total purity of character and infallibility in conveying the Divine message.

The Muslims can proudly present his total guidance to the modern and complex world of today. Prophet Muhammad's life is a mirror which shows human life in its entirety. Anyone can look at it and find guidance for all his deeds and actions (actions of body and mind), of his inner self and his outward appearance, of his tongue and his heart. It will show him a comprehensive and complete way of life. That is why no Muslim (society or individual) has ever needed to look outside their religion and their Prophet's life for

their moral, ethical and social conduct. By comparing it with other social norms and ethical and moral systems they can easily differentiate between Good and Evil, between the Beautiful and the Ugly. And since no human life is available in such a complete and comprehensive form, the Prophet of Islam is the only ideal and perfect model following whose example the whole mankind can live a pure, decent and complete life.

Divine messages have been sent down to this world from time to time through many Prophet's of Allah and we have shown in the light of historical evidence that all those Messages were meant for a particular period of time and for a particular people. Since they were for a limited time, they were not protected and with the passage of time their original form was lost. While attempts were made in some cases to compile them, human interference changed them. Their translations gave them a different shape altogether, particularly when the original had been lost and no historical evidence remained to prove its authenticity. Many imitations were added to the original divine message and all this was done over a few hundred years. But there is wisdom in all acts of Allah, therefore the disappearance of such Messages or the

loss of their original shape is in itself a proof that those Books and Commandments were meant for a temporary period only. However, His Message that was sent down through His last Prophet was meant for all times and all places. As a result, it has remained intact and will remain so, because no Message is going to come after it.

Almighty Allah has not said about any of His previous messages that they were final, or that He is Himself going to protect them. The very disappearance of those Divine revelations proves that they were meant to be temporary. In the heavenly books that exist today, not a single verse indicates that this book is complete and final and that it will be preserved, with the exception of the Glorious Qur'an. On the other hand, there are indications in their text that they are temporary and there is more of the Divine guidance still to come.

Moses (Peace be upon him) says in Torah: "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me, unto him ye shall harken." [Deuteronomy 18:15].

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and I will put my words in his

mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." [Deuteronomy 18:18]

These verses from Torah clearly indicate that another Prophet like Moses is about to come with a "fiery law", and God will put His "words in his mouth." It is obvious, thus, that the Message given to Moses was not final and eternal.

Another Prophet of Allah, Isaiah gives the good tidings of a Messenger whose law will extend to lands of rivers and islands. Malachi says, "Look. I will send my Messenger." The other books of the Old Testament confirm the coming of future Prophets. It proves that none of the Jewish scriptures was meant to be complete, final and eternal.

The New Testament says: "... And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.."

But the Comforter, which is the holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance, whatever I have said to you."

"I have many other things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now.

However, when he, the Spirit of Truth, has come, he will guide you to all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatever he shall hear, that shall he speak.”

These verses of the Bible clearly indicate that it is not the last word of God, nor is it complete. Another Messenger of God is due to come who will complete the message of Christ. On the other hand, the Message brought by Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) does not tell of any other Messenger who is to follow and will bring a new message with him; or that there is something missing in his message that he will complete and thus make his message perfect. Prophet Muhammad’s Message claims its own completion and perfection. A verse of the Glorious Qur'an states:

“Today, I have perfected your religion for you, and have completed My blessing upon you, and chosen Islam as Din (religion and a way of life) for you.”

[Chapter The Table Spread 5:3]

And it proclaims that Prophet Muhammad is the last of the chain of Allah’s Prophets (Peace be upon them). To us the Qur’anic term that he is the ‘Seal of Prophets,’ means he is the last Prophet.

Comprehensiveness: Every religion has shown to human beings how they could become worthy of achieving God's love, and that usually meant following the good advice of the founder or the Prophet of that particular religion. But Islam has done still better. It presents the practical example of its Prophet to everyone. The means to receiving God's love is through following His Prophet example in every undertaking of life.

People who follow a particular religion are never of the same type. Variety is the essence of life. Life goes on through cooperation between people of different dispositions, jobs and professions. The spectrum of life needs to have kings and presidents; the rulers and their obedient subjects; judges and courts to maintain law and order; army commanders to defend peace; the poor and the rich; pious men of God who spend whole nights in prayer or those who strive in His path spreading His message during the day; family and friends; merchants and businessmen and spiritual leaders. In short, this world exists and goes on with the existence of all these different kinds of people. And all of them need a code, a discipline, a way of life to make them successful in their own field of activity and contribute to the total richness of human life.

Islam calls upon all human beings to follow the Sunnah (the way of Allah's Prophet). It clearly means that it can offer practical examples to all kinds of people from the life of its Prophet. This very idea proves the comprehensiveness of the Prophet's life which contains practical lessons and guidance for people in every walk of life. A ruler's life cannot become a complete model for the ruled.

Similarly, a poor person's life is not a complete and practical example which a wealthy person could follow. What is needed here is the universal example of the comprehensive life of the Prophet of Islam which, like a bouquet of flowers, contains all the different colors and shades of human life.

In addition to the variety of different classes of human beings, there is immense diversity in the actions of an individual human being in different situations. We walk about and sit down; we laugh and we cry; we put on and take off clothes; we give and we take; we learn and we teach; we eat and we feed; we do favors and we get favors; we sacrifice life and we rescue life; we worship and we do business; we become hosts and we become guests etc. For all these actions, mundane or sublime, we need to have practical examples which

could show us the best way of doing a thing in ever changing situations and varying conditions of life.

Apart from these physical activities, there are the actions of heart and mind which belong to the world of emotions and feelings. With changing moments, we experience different feelings and emotions.

Sometimes we are pleased and sometimes angry; sometimes happy and sometimes gloomy; we sometimes suffer hardship and sometimes indulge in luxury; sometimes we taste success and sometimes failure. In different situations we act under the influence of a variety of emotions. Our good moral conduct depends on the control and balance of these emotions. We need the sublime example of the selfless Prophet of Allah which could inspire us to exercise control over the intensity of our basic desires and lead us safely through the ways he himself traversed under the Divine guidance.

In order to deal with many different situations of our life, we need to have certain qualities of mind and heart like courage, fortitude, will power, patience, gratefulness, faith, resilience, self-sacrifice, contentment modesty, humility etc. But only a practical example can inspire in us these noble

emotions. Where else can we find them all in one place except in the person of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)? If we look at the available information only from Bible or their religious books:

About Moses, all we get is the strength and bravery of a courageous leader but no examples of a kind and soft heart showing mercy to others.

About Christ's life is full of love and mercy and kindness, but nothing to inspire the powerful emotions. In human life, we need a balanced blend of love and power.

In Prophet Muhammad's biography we can find an excellent balance of mercy and strength, showing numerous examples of both. Only Prophet Muhammad's personality displays miraculously balanced emotions found in a human being in a wide variety of situations. If you are wealthy, follow the example of the noble trader of Makkah and trustworthy custodian of the treasures of Bahrain. If you are poor, look at his example when he was confined to a place called Shi'b Abi Taleb outside Makkah for three years where even the bare necessities of life were denied to him and his children, or when he was forced to leave his hometown and

emigrate to Madinah. If you are a king, learn about him when he became the absolute ruler of Arabia. If you are the ruled, look how he endured the oppression of Qureish in Makkah. If you are a victor, look at the commander of the battles of Badr and Hunayn. If you are a loser learn your lessons from the battle of Uhad. If you are a teacher, look at the noble teacher of Suffah (in his mosque in Madinah). If you are a student, look at the student receiving Allah's Message from Angel Gabriel. If you are a preacher, listen to the preacher of Madinah delivering his sermons in his mosque. If you have to raise the voice of truth against the evil powers of oppression, look at the lonely and helpless messenger of Allah conveying His message in Makkah. If you have, with Allah's help, overcome your opponents and your enemies, watch the conqueror of Makkah in triumph. If you want to organize your business or worldly affairs, look at the administration of the owner of the lands of Bani Nudhair, Khaiber and Fadak. If you are an orphan, look at the upbringing of the orphan child of Aminah and Abdullah. If you are a boy, watch him grow under the loving gaze of Halimah Sa'diyah. If you are an adolescent, study the character of the shephard of Makkah. If you are a travelling tradesman, look at the examples set by the caravan leader of Basrah. If you are an arbitrator or a judge in a court of law, imagine

him entering the holy Mosque of Makkah at dawn and settling the dispute among the blood-thirsty rival tribesman of Makkah, and preventing bloodshed in the holy House of God with his wise judgment. And watch the judge sitting in the courtyard of his mud-brick Mosque of Madinah, handing out impartial judgment in the cases of the high or the low, the rich or the poor with equal fairness.

If you are a husband, study the pure and faithful life of the noble husband of Khadijah and Ayeshah. If you have children, look at Fatimah's father's upbringing of her and her son Hassan and Hussain. Whoever you are and whatever your circumstance, if you are looking for guidance, correctness of conduct and the bliss of life, you will always find it in the shining example of Allah's last Prophet, Muhammad (Peace be upon him). Whoever wants to shun the darkness of ignorance and prejudice and is looking for the light of truth and guidance, they will find it in the immaculate and perfect life of the holy Prophet, whose divinely guided and inspired life is the only source of salvation for mankind. One who has some understanding of the holy Prophet's biography will feel that the lives of the other great Prophets of Allah like Noah, Abraham, Job, Jonah, Moses and Christ (Peace be upon them all) are

combined into one, represented in the holy Prophet's life.

Whatever mentioned so far is not a poetic praise of the Prophet (Peace be upon him). These are solid statements of his noble character taken from authentic history. Only such a complete and comprehensive life which can we produce numerous practical examples for the guidance and well-being of all kinds and classes of people in their varied situations and complexities of life deserves to lead the whole world in all times and in all places. He alone can produce shining examples from his own life to lead us through such diverse situations of life as love and sympathy yet wrath and anger; generosity and poverty and starvation; courage and bravery and mercy and kindness; mundane household affairs and sublime relation with Allah; this temporary life and the eternity of the Hereafter.

He not only gives the good tidings of success in this world but also gives a code of life which leads to the eternal bliss of the next world. It is generally believed that mercy and forgiveness, meekness and kindness are the main traits of humanity, or perhaps the only virtues of perfect humanity. Therefore, whoever possesses these virtues must be the greatest teacher

and well-wisher of humanity. But, are these the only powers created in a human personality? A human being shows other equally powerful emotions too, such as anger, generosity, love, hatred, greed, contentment, revenge and forgiveness which cannot be separated from human nature. Therefore, a perfect teacher and guide for all humanity can be one who can strike a balance between these diverse and sometimes conflicting human traits and give them a proper direction. The religions that claim that the biographies of their Prophets are based only on mercy and love and forgiveness cannot show that they were able to follow their example collectively in their daily lives for long. Since the first great Christian king Constantine to the present day, the Christian world has produced many powerful and great rulers. But, did anyone of them ever base the law of his kingdom on the code of life of their Prophet? If his own followers could not find guidance for all practical purposes in the life of their Prophet, how can they claim that it can be a perfect and complete model for the whole world to follow?

The salient feature of Noah's life is the outrage against the evil of a faithless society. Abraham's life shows a fight against paganism. The life of Moses is a constant struggle against the powers of oppression and tyranny and then the establishment of administration and

collective rules and regulations for a just social order. Christ's life is a lesson in meekness, humility, mercy, forgiveness and contentment. Solomon's life shows us the splendor of royal prerogatives. Job's life is a model of patient acceptance of suffering. Jonah's life gives the supreme example of repentance and seeking Allah's mercy and forgiveness. In Joseph's life there is a lesson in preaching the truth even as a prisoner within the boundaries of a prison. David's life is a story of celebrating Allah's Glory and crying to him in humble prayers. Jacob's life is an example of total surrender to Allah's Will, and faith and hope in His Mercy. But if you look at Prophet Muhammad's noble life history, you will find that it is a paragon of the virtues found individually in the lives of Allah's Prophet Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ, Solomon, David, Job, Jonah, Joseph and Jacob (Peace be upon them all).

Nearly every religion claims that its doors are open to all human beings. But the history of its founder, its first teacher will tell you that in his lifetime only one nation, one country, one race or one tribe entered that particular religion. Did they have a universal appeal or a common call for every human being? All the Prophets of Torah never addressed their call beyond Iraq or Palestine or Egypt. They remained

confined in their own homeland and concentrated on their own nation or their own race. Most of them focused on the Children of Israel. The early Arab Prophets too were responsible only for their own nations. Even the Disciples of Christ did not include any non-Israelite. It is also mentioned in the Bible that teaching non-Israelites was like throwing his children's food to the dogs. The preachers of Hinduism never thought of taking it out of the sacred boundaries of the land of Aryan India.

Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) sent his emissaries in his own lifetime, carrying Allah's Message to various nations living in different parts of the world makes it quite clear that His message was universal. It was not meant for the Arabs alone. It was meant for all mankind. Regardless of their color, country, race, nation, tribe or language it called all individuals, families, tribes and nations to the worship of Allah, the one and only God, their Lord and the Lord of the worlds. And this call remains the same today and forever, for all the people all over the world.

My dear friends! Let us pause for a moment and consider some questions. Aren't these the same Arabs who were barbarians, nomads, uncivilized, pagans and immoral? Why this sudden revolution? How did Prophet's education enlighten their minds, their souls

and their hearts? How did it transform them into broad-minded, civilized law-abiding and law-giving people? How a defenseless, lonely messenger's missionary zeal gave those insignificant, humble Arabs new sources of courage and power, and turned them into brave leaders of men? Those who did not even know the name of God, became pious, God-conscious, obedient, bowing their heads in prayer and meditation all night.

There was a unity in variety in the diverse virtues displayed by the companions of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him). Outstanding in them all was the power or faith which worked like lightening. It was this spirit which inspired them all. It was the faith in one God, sincerity of purpose, selfless spirit of serving others, sympathy and love for fellow human beings and, above all, the intention to please Allah in whatever they did and wherever they went that inspired everyone. It was this spirit that moved a king or his subjects alike, the rich or the poor, a judge or a witness, an officer or a soldier, a teacher or a student, an ascetic or a trader, a warrior or a martyr. They were different in their color, their temperament, their race but they believed in one Allah, the same Prophet, the same book and bowed in prayer in the same direction. They all worked for a common purpose-to

uphold the Truth, to serve one God and bring His Message to all mankind binding them in one common faith and to make this world a better place to live.

My dear friends! We have mentioned many virtues collectively present in one person, the holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). If, after your observation of nature, you believe that this world of ours is a mixture of varied human talents, capabilities and temperaments, you will agree with us, that no one other than Prophet Muhammad can be the eternal and universal leader of humanity. The reason is that he was chosen by the Creator of this universe for this eternal role.

Practicability: There is no shortage of good instructions, sound advice and sweet words in this world, but what matters most is good deeds. If we go through the available histories of various religious leaders, we will find interesting philosophies, fascinating parables, great pieces of oratory and artistic use of words, which will certainly move us and please us momentarily. But what is lacking there is the practical application of those words of wisdom and proving their goodness and effectiveness through personal example.

Let us look at the preacher on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and the preacher on the Mount of Safa in Makkah from this perspective. We will see that Christ's present biography fails to present any practical examples, any examples of his actual practice, whereas Prophet Muhammad's life history is full of the records of his noble practice. Tolerance and forgiveness are commendable virtues. A nonviolent person, who does not harm or kill others, does not rob, or does not accumulate wealth, is no doubt a virtuous person. But these virtues are passive virtues. He did no harm, but did he stand up to save a helpless person? He did not take anyone's life himself, but did he save anyone from being killed? He did not build a house for himself; but did he shelter the homeless? This world requires these active and positive virtues. And that indeed is the noble, moral conduct.

The Glorious Qur'an is the heavenly Book. It is the word of God, revealed to His last Prophet, for the guidance of mankind. It contains the commandments of Allah and His instructions for the benefit of all mankind. Indeed, the holy Prophet's life is the Glorious Qur'an in practice. Whatever instructions and commandments of Allah were sent down, being His Messenger he was the first to obey. He practiced

them while he preached them. Declaration of Faith in the Oneness of God, Salah (five time obligatory prayer), Fasting, Hajj (pilgrimage), Zakat (compulsory charity), spending on the needy and destitute, steadfastness, fortitude, patience, thanks-giving and other principles of good moral behavior that he taught, he first demonstrated through personal example. His life became an embodiment of what had been revealed for human guidance in the Glorious Qur'an. It is related that when some of his companions asked his wife Ayesah (May Allah be pleased with them all) about the holy Prophet's practice and his character, she asked them whether they had not read the Glorious Qur'an. His life was a complete reflection of the Glorious Qur'an. The Glorious Qur'an is words while the holy Prophet's life is its interpretation in practice.

Dear friends! The Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) did not merely utter beautiful words, rather they display his sincere determination, and that remained his practice throughout his life. Once, some tribute was sent to him from Bahrain. He directed that it should be left in the courtyard of his mosque. When he came for the dawn prayer next morning, he did not even glance at the treasure. After the prayers he started distributing it until none was left. Having

finished it he got up as if it was some dust that had settled on his clothes. There are many such incidents recorded in Books. This is the practical example of the Holy Prophet's charity and generosity.

A Jewish woman presented him some meat which had actually been poisoned. As soon as he put a piece in his mouth, he realized that the meat was poisoned. The woman was brought before him and confessed her crime. The Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) took no revenge and she was released without being punished. The Holy Prophet suffered from the after effects of that poison for the rest of his life.

When he teaches to be good and kind to wives and children, he says, "The best amongst you is the one who is good to his family and I am the best of all in being good to my family."

## The Message of the Holy Prophet of Islam

All the great men who have served humanity, only the Prophets of Allah are the ones whose noble examples ought to be followed And the most perfect and complete life available to us today is that of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) which makes him

the best and eternal role model for all mankind. Once we have shown that Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is the eternal and perfect model the question arises- what are his universal teachings that lead to eternal success? What message has he brought to the world and what are the essential features of that message for which the last of God's Messengers was sent to this world?

My friends! The question is: 'Was there any Divine Message other than the one sent through Prophet Muhammad that was Universal and applicable in all times?' For the Children of Israel the only world is their own world. The only God is the God of the Children of Israel. Therefore, none of their Prophets nor any of their holy books has ever conveyed the Divine message to the non-Jews. Even today the Jewish religion and the Law of Moses are meant for the Jews alone. All Jewish scriptures are addressed only to the Jews and they are always asked to turn to their hereditary God. According to the Bible, Christ limited his message to the 'lost sheep of the Children of Israel' and did not like to give "the Children's food to the dogs" by conveying his message to the non-Israelites. "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." [Matthew 15:21-28]

The Quran instructs us even to treat those who are born from an illegal sexual intercourse as Brothers. But the Bible tells us in Leviticus 23 that they should not even enter the assembly of the Lord. The Bible tells us in Deuteronomy 25, that if two men were beating up each other, and the wife of one of them interfered, she should have her hand chopped off. Bible say that wisdom is a source of sorrow in Ecclesiastes 1:18, and the Quran calls wisdom a gift in 2:269. The Bible God in Leviticus 21 tells us that hunchbacks, dwarfs, cripples, blind people, people who are deformed or disfigured, or have damaged testicles-all those people cannot become Priests. The Quran tells us that there is no difference between a man and another except in piety. Bible God in Leviticus 21 forbid Priests from marrying divorced women, and the Quran doesn't say such thing. In Judaism a man and woman divorce his wife then there is no possibility of remarry her again. Despite the complexity of divorce legislation which developed in the post-biblical period, a woman remained vulnerable. She still could not initiate a divorce, and more seriously if her husband refused to grant her a divorce, she could find herself in the position of being an *agunah* (chained woman). This is law practiced by Orthodox Jews. For a person to convert to Jew, has to take place in front of a bet din (religious law court) of

three judges (dayanim) who will open a file on a would-be convert. The Talmud recommends that one should discourage converts while at the same time bringing them near, and so the bet din will initially try to discourage the would-be convert. Conversion may last for several years. However in Islam embracing is very easy. Just proclaim within heart and tongue that oneness of Allah and Messengership of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

The ancient Indian, Vedas are not meant for the ears of non-Aryans because they considered the whole world inferior to their race. The books make it sure that the words of Vedas must not reach the inferior ears of the non-Aryans, and if they did so by any chance, those ears should be filled with molten lead.

Prophet Muhammad's message is addressed to all, to the Arabs and the non-Arabs, to the Whites and the Blacks, to the Turks and the Tartars, to the Indians and the Chinese and to the Africans and the Westerners. In this message, Allah is the only God and just as He is the Lord of the universe, His Messenger too, has been sent to the whole universe (he is called 'Mercy to the universe') and his message is the universal message. To quote a few verses of the Glorious Qur'an:

“It is nothing but an advice for all the worlds.”

[Chapter The Cattle 6:90]

Prophet Muhammad came as a warner to all nations. His message extends to the whole of Allah’s dominion. Another verse states:

Say, “O people, I am a messenger of Allah (sent) to you from the One to whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth....” [Chapter The Heights 7:158]

The above references fully demonstrate that of all the heavenly religions only Islam has proclaimed to be the final, complete, eternal and universal religion from God. The Holy Prophet said, “Before me all Prophets were sent to their own particular nations and I have been sent to all nations.” This is a further proof of our contention and the solid evidence of history truly confirms our point that just as Prophet Muhammad’s message is complete and universal, so is his character and personality a perfect and universal model.

Now the question arises what that universal message is which completed and superseded all religions and gave a perfect and lasting form to the Divine religion concluding Allah’s favor on mankind.

Every religion has two aspects to it: one that concerns the human heart, and the other that is related to the physical side of human personality, its possessions and property etc. The first may be called faith while the other may be called acts or deeds. Human deeds can be classified into three main streams. The first one includes man's relation with Allah and its manifestation in various modes of worship. The second includes all kinds of dealings amongst human beings a major part of which is the law. The third includes; interrelations, governed by moral principles. Thus the four major components of a religion are: (1) belief or faith, (2) worship, (3) business deals, (4) morals. These four fundamental principles have come to their perfection through Prophet Muhammad's divine message.

In contrast, the Torah and the New Testament are ambiguous and absolutely unclear about faith or belief. There is some mentioning of the presence of God or sometimes unity of God but without any evidence or sound argument. The attributes of God that can really nourish the human soul, and their knowledge can lead to an understanding and love of God, are missing. Next to the faith in the Oneness of God comes the faith in His Prophets; the nature of Prophethood; divine revelation and inspiration;

communication with God; the explanation of certain basic facts such as the Holy Prophets of God being human but infallible in their conveying of God's Message; their being sent to all nations at different times of human history; their holy mission and duties; their status among the human beings and how they ought to be regarded and recognized. Facts like these are hardly mentioned in the holy books of any religion before Islam. The accountability of man, Heaven and Hell, The Day of Judgment and the life in the Hereafter are mentioned in a few sentences in reply to a Jew's question in the Bible. On such vital issues the Bible contains just a few sentences. Similarly, Heaven and Hell are mentioned in a sentence or two. But Prophet Muhammad's message deals with all these matters clearly and in great detail. The idea of angels is mentioned in Torah but it is so vague that sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between the angels and God. In the Bible one or two angels are mentioned but the entity mentioned as the holy Ghost is so mystifying that it can be taken as angel or God. However, in the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) there is a very clear definition of angels, and their relation to Allah and His Messengers and other creatures of the universe is thoroughly explained. Prophet Muhammad's Message not only perfects the idea of faith and belief with respect to

God and the Unknown it also clearly defines the practical aspect of human life. Let us consider the most important feature of human actions i.e. the mode of worship. There is a long discussion in the Old Testament regarding sacrificial rites. In addition, there is fasting and supplications. "Baitullah" or the House of God is named, too. But, all these things are so vague that most people fail to take any notice of them and usually ignore them or even deny them. The rites of worship are not clearly defined nor classified, neither is there any clear instruction on how to perform them. No time has been fixed for their performance. There are no particular supplications or remembrance of God taught in a regular manner. There are plenty of hymns and sacred songs in the Book of Psalms in the Bible. Yet, there is no mention of a proper way of worship, its timing and other guidelines. Timing is so important that it shows your obeyness to God's call and it is a sacrifice by adjusting your worldly work and then you will perceive unseen help from God for that sacrifice. The other books of the Bible hardly ever mention any worship. It does mention Christ's starving for forty days which could be called fasting. The Jews' objection to Jesus (Peace be upon him) "Why don't your disciples fast?" is mentioned in the Bible itself. Apart from that, Christ's prayer is mentioned on the eve of the Crucifixion and

he is reported to have taught his disciples a prayer. However, it is not possible to extract from the Bible any subscribed methods of worship.

Compare all this to the teaching of Islam Here you will find everything clearly defined and in full detail. Clear and complete instructions are available for Salat (the five time prayer), for fasting, for Hajj (the Pilgrimage to Makkah), etc. The manners and conditions for performing these and other Islamic rites have been fully described, such as the prescribed times for the daily prayers, the times for keeping and breaking the fast, the time for the performance of Hajj. In addition, special prayers and supplications, the remembrance and glorification of Almighty Allah, how to turn to Him in all kinds of needs of this world and hereafter, how to ask His forgiveness, confession of sins and seeking His pardon and mercy-all these have been taught in a very simple and attractive manner so that the bond of worship and love is established between Allah and His servants. These teachings provide nourishment for the soul of man, uplifting him and uniting him with his Creator and Sustainer, They are the embodiment of the spirit of religion. Getting unseen help from Allah in personal life, make believers more firm and bond become strong.

Another aspect of human actions is their mutual dealings and the rules of government. This part of human endeavor has been dealt with in detail in the message of Prophet Moses (Peace be upon him). These laws have been retained to a great extent in Prophet Muhammad's (Peace be upon him) Shari'a (Divine laws revealed to him). However, they are not as severe, and they have been raised from a narrow national sphere to an all-embracing universal level. As their new status required some changes, new components have been added which were lacking in the old laws. For instance, there were no laws regarding divorce and its related matters except one or two rules in the Bible. However, a universal code of life like Islam needed to provide complete guidance in government and social affairs. Christ's message did not include these, so the Christian nations had to borrow from the laws of the pagan Greeks and Romans. In Prophet Muhammad's message, the Divine laws completely cover every aspect of the social and political needs of a civilized society and lay down fundamental principles which have ever since enabled the Muslim scholars to find out viable solutions to all kinds of problems and varying human needs over hundreds of years.

The third aspect of human conduct is their moral behavior. In the Torah we find some guidelines regarding morality consisting of seven fundamental principles-one is of positive nature like obeying the parents and the rest are negative like: “don’t commit murder, theft, and adultery; don’t give false evidence against your neighbour; don’t covet your neighbour’s wife, or his wealth.” In the Bible, more or less the same commandments have been repeated with the instruction to love others in a general sort of way. This may be regarded as an improvement on what is found in Torah. But the final Divine Message of the Glorious Qur'an has turned this drop into a full flowing river. First, it determines the twelve fundamental principles, revealed to Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) during his ascent to the Heavens. They are mentioned in the Qur'anic chapter called Isra. Of these, one is concerned with the faith in the Oneness of God and the rest deal with human morals. They are a combination of do's and don'ts.

The do's are: Obey your parents. Fulfil your obligations to others. Treat the orphans with kindness. Give the correct measure and weight; Keep your promise as you will have to give an account of your deeds.

The don'ts include; do not kill your offspring for fear of poverty. Do not commit murder. Do not even go near adultery. Do not follow blindly an unknown path. Do not be vain. Do not be extravagant, but follow a middle path.

A comparative look at these fundamental principles clearly indicates that Prophet Muhammad's message is a continuation and completion of the Divine Message given to Christ and, before him, to Moses (Peace be upon them). These moral principles explain the complexities of ethical values and show how human potential can be fully realized. They also expose the weaknesses of human beings, diagnose every sickness of their soul, and provide its cure. That was how the perfection of human personality came about through the Message of the holy Prophet (Peace be upon him).

Islamic teachings can be summed up in two words; Faith and Practice. Faith in Allah and righteous deeds dominate overwhelmingly Prophet Muhammad's message. The Glorious Qur'an clearly indicates that human salvation entirely depends on these two fundamental principles. It demands from us a pure and firm faith accompanied by pure and decent deeds. Verses like "Those who believe and do good deeds"

are repeated scores of times in the Glorious Qur'an and it is made absolutely clear that our eternal success depends on nothing but true faith and good deeds. Therefore, we would prefer to emphasize only those aspects of the Holy Prophet's message that particularly deal with humanity's misconception of these two basic principles of faith and practice and how his message corrects those mistakes and shows them a perfect way of life through Divine guidance. These misconceptions have led and continue to lead a major part of humanity away from their Creator and Sustainer, and have thrown them into the pit of ignorance and decadence. These mistakes are the root cause of the corruption of the human soul and condemn it to its eternal doom.

The first of those issues, made clear by Prophet Muhammad's Message, is to determine the status of humanity in the whole universe, particularly in relation to other creatures of Allah, and this very principle is the root of the Muslim article of faith i.e. the Oneness of God. Before Islam, man used to regard himself inferior to most creatures of Allah. He was awed by objects and creatures of nature such as a hard rock, a high mountain, a flowing river or a green tree, pouring rain or burning fire, fearsome jungles, poisonous snakes or roaring lions. He revered the

milk-giving cow, the brilliant sun and the shining stars, special trees. Dark nights and weird forms would strike terror in his heart. In short, he would bow his head and worship anything that could either harm him or benefit him. But Allah's Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) brought him this message: "O people! These things are not your masters, rather you are their masters. You have not been created for their sake. They have been created to serve you. They are at your service, so why do you bow to them in worship? O Men! You are Allah's viceroy and deputy in the universe. Therefore everything in it has been put at your disposal. The universe is at your command. You have not been created for its sake." In the words of the Glorious Qur'an:

'(Remember) when your Lord said to the angels, "I am going to create a deputy on the earth..."' [Chapter The Cow 2:30]

Is it then becoming of man to bow to other inferior creatures of Allah? Islamic teachings tell human beings that the whole world has been created for their use.

Another fundamental principle of his teachings is that a man is primarily innocent and pure in his creation. Deep down in his nature he is simple and untainted by any sin. By his own choice he can become a sinner or a

saint. He himself blackens and brightens his basically pure nature. That is the greatest piece of good news that could be given to a human being and it has come through Allah's Prophet, Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

The wide spread religions of China, India, Burma and even some of the Greek philosophers believe in re-incarnation. According to this belief man keeps appearing in this world in different cycles, and each phase is predetermined by his deeds, good or bad, in the previous cycle. This baseless faith leaves human being hopeless. Human life becomes a mere burden, because it leaves human beings chained by the consequences of imaginary sins they are supposed to have committed in a previous life. It leaves them with no free will, no choice. According to this faith man is a mere tool of a predetermined faith and his very re-birth is a sign of his being sinful. Even Christianity does not lighten this burden. It has rather increased it, because according to Christian teachings every human being is originally a sinner because they have inherited their father Adam's sin even though they may not have committed any sin at all. Therefore, they need someone free from the original sin, someone not from their own race to sacrifice himself and atone for all sins of the human beings.

But Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) came as a messenger of God and gave the glad tidings to the suffering humanity that they were not just tools of a predetermined faith. They were not haunted by any sins they had not themselves committed. They were born in a pure, sinless state, untainted by any original sin. They themselves had the choice to be clean and taint, pure or sinful and dirty by their own deeds. In the words of Allah:

“We have created man in the best composition, then We turned him into the lowest of the low, except those who believed and did righteous deeds, because for them there is a reward never ending.” [Chapter The Fig 95:4-6]

Before Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) the world was divided into different clans who hardly knew one another. In India, the holy men of Hinduism had confined their religion to their own sacred law. Their God was concerned with the welfare of their followers only. Its benefits were meant for the people of the land, particularly for certain families of a higher caste. Zoroaster heard the message of God, but only for the people of the holy land of Persia. The Children of Israel believed that no Prophet would ever come from outside their own tribes. It is the Prophet of Islam who has brought the Divine Message for the

whole mankind. His message is not limited to the East or the West. The Divine Guidance, sent down through him is not meant just for one country, or one nation or one language. In its sight, Palestine, Persia, India, Europe or Arabia have the same status. It was meant to enlighten all mankind. Therefore, its light has spread throughout the world.

A Jew does not recognize any Prophet of non-Jewish origin. It is not required of a Christian to believe in the Jewish Prophets or Prophets from other nations. This does not stop him from being a true Christian.

Believers in Hinduism do not believe in any voice of God, coming from outside India. A follower of Zoroaster sees darkness everywhere except in Persia. But it is Prophet Muhammad's message which proclaims that all mankind belongs to Allah. He alone is their Creator. As His creation the whole human race is entitled to share His bounties. The Light of His guidance was sent down for every place inhabited by human beings.

The followers of all religions, apart from Islam have established intermediaries between man and God. In the ancient temples there were the holy men and high priests. The Jews had taken Levi and his sons to be the

intermediary between them and God, and only they could lead the service and perform other religious rites. The Christians had given some Disciples of Christ and their Popes the same status, believing whatever they bind on earth would be bound in heaven and whatever they unbind here on earth would be unbound in heaven. They had been given the power to pardon the sins of all mankind. No service could be conducted without them. Likewise, among the Hindus the superior caste Brahmins believe they have been created out of the right hand of God. They alone form the link between man and God. No Hindu religious ceremony can be held without them. But in Islam, there are no high Priests, Brahmins or Popes. There is no Clergy here. There is no superior caste or class. Allah alone has the power to bind or unbind. Only Allah has the power to pardon the sins. There is no intermediary here between man and Allah. Any ordinary Muslim can be an Imam to lead the Prayers or conduct a marriage contract or perform all religious rites. Here is the common call to all men and women: "Your Lord has said, 'Call Me, I will respond to you...'"

[Chapter The Forgiver 40:60]

Everyone can communicate with Him, seek His Mercy through their supplication, bow to Him and offer their prayers, show their love and devotion. There is no

need for any intermediary between the Creator and His devotees. This was a great freedom granted to mankind by the way of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). This freedom liberates man from the tyranny of man in all matters between the slaves and their - Lord, the Creator and Sustainer. In Islam every man is his own high Priest. He is not dependent on any Priest, Pope or Brahmin. Human history shows that they have always taken an extremist attitude towards the holy men of God who were ordained by Him, from time to time, to guide them to the right path. Their extreme devotion a reverence for them eventually took the form of worship. They were exalted to the status of God Himself, or God-incarnate or a manifestation of God. In the ancient temples of Babylon, Assyria and Egypt the high Priests seem to have attained the glory of God. In Hinduism they are regarded as God-incarnate. The Buddhists and Jams considered their Buddha's and guides as Gods. The Christians called their Prophet the son of God. On the other extreme, the Israelites began to consider anybody a Prophet of God who could foretell the future. In order to be a Prophet all one needed to do was make predictions and prophecies. It was not even necessary for him to be a man of noble conduct.

Followers of Hinduism have formed several sects. The reason being the same old concept of giving God's attributes separate and permanent entities and representing them through a solid form. God's three main attributes; His power to give life, His power to sustain life and His power to take life are three separate personifications in Hinduism. "Brahma", "Vishnu" and "Shiva" are three separate beings, each one having their own followers grouped under three different sects: the Brahmins, the worshippers of "Vishnu", and those of "Shiva". Another sect carved out the human sexual organs from stone and began to worship them because to them these organs manifest God's power of creation. Likewise, the Christian concept of Trinity represents three separate attributes of God: Life, Knowledge and Will. Life is the Father, Knowledge the holy Ghost and Will the only begotten son of God. Similar concepts are found in the ancient Roman, Greek and Egyptian ideology. But Prophet Muhammad's Divine Message makes clear the human error which results from the self-deception of seeing one in many. It is merely man's ignorance that he should take One God's various attributes as separate entities and give them the status of God.

He has all the attributes that you see separately in "Brahma" and "Shiva" and "Vishnu" (and consider

them Gods in their own right). But, the source is One and Only. The attributes are various belonging to the same One God. Therefore, according to the Glorious Qur'an:

"So, to Allah belongs all praise, who is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, the Lord of the worlds. And to Him belongs majesty in the heavens and the earth. And He is the Mighty, the Wise." [Chapter Crouching 45:36-37]

It is only through the Message of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) that we learn such sublime attributes of God. The others have split God into several deities by separating Him from His attributes. "Pure is Allah from what they associate with Him." refers to the polytheism committed by people who see God separate from His attributes. Prophet Muhammad's Message tells people that He is Allah, gives proper form and color to things. He is the sovereign Lord of all beings. He is the Holy One, free from all evil. He gives faith, and He is the Supreme Being; He is the Creator of all things. He is the Evolver, the Guardian of Faith: Only His Will prevails. There is absolutely no one who can oppose or resist Him. He is Most Gracious, Most Merciful. All these attributes belong to Him. He is One and Only.

Another factor that leads to polytheistic belief is the variety of Allah's acts. The human error lies in the belief that for each act of God there is a different God. If one gives life, the other takes life; one causes wars, the other brings peace. There is a God or Goddess of love and a different one for enmity. There are deities for knowledge, wealth etc. running into hundreds, each one reserved for an act of his own. Islam's message for such people is that all acts are the acts of Allah, the One God.

All acts can be summed up under two main categories of good or evil. The belief that both good and bad acts cannot come from one source led Zoroastrians to say that there were two Gods: one for good and the other for evil. They were called Yazdan and Ahruman and this world was the battleground for the eternal conflict of the two. The Zoroastrians made this basic error because they could not understand the reality of good and evil. My friends! Evil and good in this world are relative terms. Nothing in itself is good or evil. It becomes good or evil according to the way it is used by human beings. Take the example of fire. Use it for cooking or allow a poor person to warm himself, it will become good. Use the same fire to burn someone's house it will be evil. Fire in itself is neither evil nor good. You make it either evil or good by the way you

use it. Similarly, the sword is neither evil nor good in itself. It is what you make it with your use. Similarly, there is darkness. If you rob people's houses under the cover of darkness, it is evil. If you do good deeds without showing off, it is good. It can also be a source of comfort for the tired human minds. Allah has created the Universe, the Heavens and the Earth. He has created all matter. He has given things their particular properties and then He created man and gave him the faculties of mind and heart. He gave him the ability to think and understand the nature of things.

On the other hand, this material world with all its powers and properties and outwardly attractions and glamour may lead some people to a purely materialistic attitude. This kind of reasoning makes them deny the very presence of God. They believe that Matter and Time are the essence of the universe. According to a verse of the Glorious Qur'an: "And they say, 'There is no life but our worldly life. We die and live, and nothing destroys us except time.' They have no knowledge about that; they do nothing but make conjectures." [Chapter Crouching 45:24]

The wrong concept of sacrifice had led people to believe that man has complete control over his life

and he is the master of his own soul. Similarly, he owns the life of his children and that of his wife. This wrong belief resulted in many cruel practices. It gave birth to suicide, infanticide, sacrifice of little children or their killing, wife-burning after the death of her husband and many such inhuman customs. Prophet Muhammad's Message eradicated all such practices. It established the principle that human life is sacred, and it cannot be taken except by Allah's Command.

Therefore, in Islam it is forbidden to eat the meat of those animals that are not slaughtered in the name of Allah. The doors of Heaven are closed on those who take their own life. Suicide is a great sin. In non-Islamic societies, particularly in Europe and America, suicide is considered the best solution to many problems (In 2020 daily suicide rate in US is 125 and in 2019 daily suicide rate in Germany is 28 and in UK it is around 15). In these civilized societies, the law often fails to stop this practice, because everyone feels free to take their own life in order to escape from the world's problems. They believe there is no life after death, or if there is, they will not be accountable to Allah for that. But, Islam says our life is not our own. It really belongs to Allah. It is a gift from Allah which cannot be thrown away. Suicide is not the right idea for getting rid of life's problem, because this act would cause unimaginable suffering in the life hereafter. There are

many verses in the Glorious Qur'an about the sanctity of life. About suicide the Qur'anic verdict is:

"...Do not kill one another. Indeed, Allah has been Very-Merciful to you. Whoever does that out of aggression and injustice, We shall cast him into the Fire..." [Chapter The Woman 4:29-30]

In those parts of the world where Prophet Muhammad's Message has not been accepted, one of the greatest wrongs is that human beings have been divided into different classes and communities on the basis of color, race and wealth. Since the ancient times, the Indian Hindus have regarded everyone but themselves dirty and impure. They classify themselves into four castes, each one having different rights and privileges. The lowest class, known as Shudars, does not have the same rights as others, even in worshipping God. They are treated less than human in worldly matters too. The ancient Iran maintained the similar four classes. The Romans regarded themselves as the masters with the rest of the world fit only to be their subjects. The Jews were the only chosen people of God and the non-Jews were Gentiles. Even among themselves they had different classes. How about the modern, civilized Western nations of today? Today's Europe that claims to be the champion of freedom and culture, considers the white race superior to

others and is reluctant to give equal treatment to colored races. While travelling, the Asians cannot sit along with them. In certain countries they cannot live together in the same neighborhood. They do not have equal rights. Many American humanists would not give the Negroes even the right to live. In South and East Africa, African Indians and Asians do not enjoy the basic human rights of freedom and equality. This discrimination has entered even the house of God. The whites and the blacks have separate churches because they cannot bow their heads together to one God. Prophet Muhammad's Message puts an end to all kinds of discrimination. In Islam the distinction based on ancestry, wealth or appearance is meaningless.

The Glorious Qur'an:

"O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into races and tribes, so that you may identify one another. Surely the noblest of you, in Allah's sight, is the one who is most pious of you. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware." [Chapter The Private Apartments 49:13]

In the sight of Allah all are equal. There is no distinction of ancestry, wealth or poverty; of the nobility of the Brahmin or the lowliness of the Shudar.

The Glorious Qur'an is meant for all. Everybody can lead a prayer congregation. Anyone can ask a girl's hand in marriage. All have the right to acquire knowledge. All have equal rights. All are equal before the law. All are equal in the sight of Allah.

One single factor that has misguided the world is the separation of the spiritual affairs from the worldly affairs. Religion is considered separately from the day to day worldly practice. Worldly success is considered one thing and spiritual success something else. This division is caused by supposing separate allegiance to God and "Caesar" (Roman Emperor), as if God had left people free to do whatever they pleased in their worldly affairs. This was the greatest mistake that spread in the world in the name of religion. This error was exposed with the coming of the light brought by Prophet Muhammad's Message which said that religion was a complete system of guidance sent down by God through His Prophets. The Last Message is a complete code of life. Applying it in all walks of life means true religion. Piety or righteousness does not mean meditating in the cave of a mountain. But following sincerely Allah's Guidance in our day to day affairs can lead us to great spiritual heights. Looking after one's friends, children, parents, countrymen etc., earning a decent living are not purely worldly affairs

from an Islamic point of view. Those who truly believe in the Holy Prophet's Message follow his example and their life style reflects the sincerity and strength of their faith. While in constant strife against the powers of evil, against those who reject the truth, they are extremely compassionate and kind to each other. They are closely knit into the brotherhood of faith. They bow their heads in all humility in Prayer to Almighty Allah, seeking His Grace and Pleasure. The Qur'anic term meaning "His Grace" here denotes their livelihood. So they do not neglect their worldly needs and duties while striving for spiritual excellence. However, the worldly affairs cannot become a hindrance in their awareness and remembrance of Allah. About such men the Glorious Qur'an says: "By the men whom no trade or sale makes neglectful of the remembrance of Allah..." [Chapter The Light 24:37]

In Western educational philosophy, the highest concept of life is that the means for power and authority, and the opportunities for prosperity and leisure must be provided. Furthermore, man must develop the ability and power to fulfil human needs and demands. The European educational view is restricted only to the individual. He has no concern whatsoever for human society. Nor does he have any

interest in combined human rights, and social and mutual interactions. Rather, man is free to choose whatever means he wants for the fulfilment of his desires and pleasures. He is not restricted to any moral codes and human values. As a result of this European view, mutual rivalry, enmity, materialism, selfishness, self-interest, self-opportunity, moral degeneration and anarchy, liberty, self-advantages, self-conceit, pride, arrogance and other similar illnesses are becoming common. Western thinkers separate education from character building. In fact, they consider it essential to consider a child's natural inclinations and demands of his thoughts. They feel a child ought to be given free reign for the realization of these inclinations and demands. As per the Western view, an ideal human is one who utilizes his capabilities and means for the realization of his material goals. He is not taught the rectification of beliefs, reformation of morals, setting right of human mannerisms, and consideration of human values and traditions.

Due to their rebellion against religion, morals, social traditions, human and moral values; and the materialistic education system which is based on the views of European materialistic philosophy, education today cannot produce a model and responsible human

being who can construct society on correct plans and virtuous foundations, and give proliferation to the highest human values in life in whom there is a consciousness to fulfil the rights of fellow humans and the rights of Allah. Due to the Western and materialistic education system, man has become refractory and wayward. Nothing except the use of force and severity can control him. This is why there is not much difference between an educated person and an uneducated one as regards morals, character, ways and mannerisms, dealings, transactions and domestic and social life. The only difference in their daily life is that one has knowledge and the other does not.

In some religions it was wrongly understood that the aim of worship was to punish one's body. In other words, the greater the physical pain, the greater the spiritual refinement. That was their belief. The soul's progress depended on the amount of pain inflicted on the body. This concept of worship gave birth to monasticism among the Hindus and the Christians. For instance, someone vowed never to take a bath, or wear nothing but a mantle of coarse and rough cloth, or remain naked even in severe cold. Some of them decided to remain in a cave forever, or keep standing in the sun all their life, or sit on a particular rock for

their whole life. Some thought the best way of worship was celibacy so they vowed to stay away from the opposite sex. One form of worship was to raise a hand and keep it there until it dried up. These were regarded as the highest forms of worship to God and the most advanced ways of spiritualism before Islam. Prophet Muhammad's message emancipated human beings from such practices and freed them from this jugglery in the name of spiritualism. It teaches them that Allah does not put a burden over human beings beyond their capacity. He likes to see the purity of heart, the inner beauty of the human soul rather than its outward form. In the words of the Glorious Quran: "Allah does not obligate anyone beyond his capacity..." [Chapter The Cow 2:286]

## A Kind Call to Islam

If a new object or a machine, which no one in the world has ever seen or heard of before, is shown to an atheist or any person and then a question is asked, "Who is the first person who will be able to provide details of the mechanism of this unknown object? After little bit of thinking, he will reply, 'the creator of that object.' Some may say 'the producer' while others may say 'the manufacturer.' Whatever answer

the person gives, keep it in your mind, the answer will always be either the creator, the producer, the manufacturer or somewhat of the same meaning, i.e. the person who has made it or created it. Don't grapple with words, whatever answer he gives, the meaning will be same, therefore accept it. In the Qur'an Allah mentioned in many verses that He is the creator, He is the creator and obey to him.

Few verses:

"Indeed your Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth... He brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly, and (He created) the sun, the moon, the stars subjected to His Command." [Chapter The Heights 7:54]

"Who has made the earth a resting place for you, and the sky as a canopy, and sent down water (rain) from the sky and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you. Then do not set up rivals unto Allah (in worship) while you know (that He Alone has the right to be worshipped)." [Chapter The Cow 2:22]

Purpose of this book is not just to admire Islam or increase knowledge of Islam. Rather subject is what

will our situation in hereafter life. There are 2 decisions, either blessing of Paradise or punishment of Hell. My dear friends, think this again and again. Hereafter life is forever life, not 1 million or 2 million years of life. Allah says in Qur'an 'I am calling you to Darus Salam (Paradise)'. My dear friend, think who gave you wealth, who gave clothes, shelter, food, water none other than Allah. And more valuable blessing is He has given bodily blessing. Allah reminds us in the Glorious Qur'an 'He is the One who has originated you, and made for you ears and eyes and hearts. How little you pay gratitude!' [Chapter The Sovereignty 67:23]. Here what does means gratitude is obey Allah and follow beloved Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him). Our Prophet's teaching is not within four walls of Mosque. Prophetic teaching emphasizes how to behavior with our parents, children, blood relations, neighbors even with animals, how to be our financial dealings. Don't try to learn Islam from media or internet. You don't know that you are learning from right source or corrupted source. Better visit local mosque's Imaam and clarify all about Islam. As said Islam is not within the mosque. Islam teach how to do correct earning and correct way to spend. What are the food and drink permissible and

what are not. Islam has a boundary and within that boundary you can enjoin worldly life.

My dear friends, if still your heart doesn't like Islam just kindly have some friendship with Muslims. It will open your heart to real Islam not electronic media Islam. My dear friends, if still you are not satisfied, ok act like Muslims like go to Mosque and pray with them and follow few teaching of Islam in your personal life. You will feel how beautiful and peaceful Islam is.

Worldly things and materials are not giving peace to your heart. Allah says remembrance of me give peace to your heart. My dear friends, few lost we would face this world is temporary but hereafter life, lost is forever. My dear friends, if your heart still not inclined to Islam read this book again and beg from Allah to open your heart. Two things need to see something. Light of outside and internal light. You need light of sun and your eyes. Same way this book have certain light and to benefit from it, you should have light in heart. For that you should open your heart and read in good calm atmosphere.

My dear friend, I invite you to set aside the religion of your parents and take that step toward researching, learning and then choosing the religion of divine

guidance and wisdom. Become a Muslim today by sincerely believing and repeating aloud the following words; "I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and] bear witness that Muhammed is Allah's messenger," and begin to follow the original and authentic teachings of all the Prophets.

## References

- Major portion of this book is taken articles from Indian scholar Maulana Syed Sulaiman Nadwi (died 1953)
- Articles from Dr. Zakir Naik
- Articles from Ahmed Deedat (died 2005)
- Articles from many Islamic researchers and scholars. May Allah rewards them all for their sincere efforts.